No. 16

METAL FORCES

£1·00

PANTERA

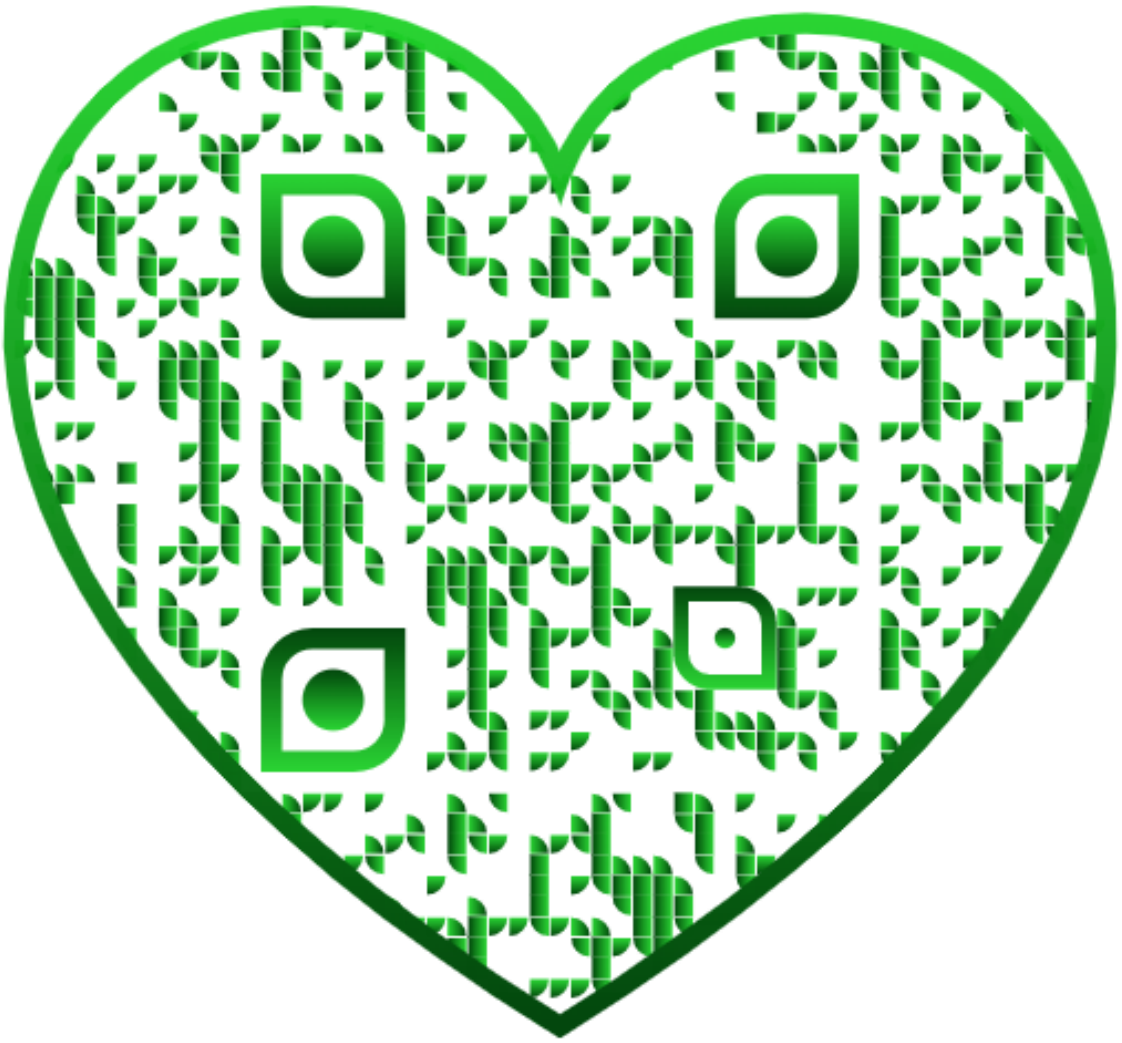
VENOM
THE GODZ
EXCITER
LEE AARON
AVENGER
POSSESSED

PANTERA Pic Joe Giron

METALLICA

THE NEW ALBUM

HELLOWEEN



EDITORIAL

Belated New Year's greetings and welcome to MF16. Apologies for the late arrival of this issue but we've had a few "behind the scene" hassles, although the good news is that we are now in a position to guarantee that, in future, METAL FORCES, will be coming out on a regular monthly basis.

You will notice quite a few changes in this issue, and more are to follow in creating a new format which we believe will make for a much improved METAL FORCES. But don't worry, as we've stressed in the past, MF will always stay loyal to its roots and the underground metal scene. After all there's no need for us to suddenly do a U-turn and jump on the bandwagon, raving about the undiscovered talents of the underground, because we've already been doing it for three years and will continue to do so too. Yes, beware of false imitations and their Meagre Metal attempts at cashing in on a scene created soley by the fans without the aid of all the glossy hype. Keep The Faith.

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NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEW

AGENT STEEL

●**AGENT STEEL** have replaced bass player George Robb with Michael Zaputil who will appear on the bands forthcoming EP "Mad Locust Rising", that will include a version of JUDAS PRIEST's "The Ripper".

●The long awaited "From The Megavault" compilation album will finally be released in March by Megaforce Records. The final track-listing has now been confirmed as: **MEDIEVEL STEEL** - "Battle Beyond The Stars", **OVERKILL** - "Sonic Reducer" (an old DEAD BOYS song), **EXCITER** - "Death Revenge", **T.T.QUICK** - "Wing And A Prayer", **RAVEN** - "Take It Away" (live), **IMPERIUS REX** - "Red Diamonds", **BLESSED DEATH** - "Pain Killer" (Live in the studio version), **S.O.D.** - "Ram It Up", **ANTHRAX** - "Panic" and **BLUE CHEER** "Boney Maroney".

●Bristol based **ONSLAUGHT** have added a frontman Sy Keeler and signed a recording deal with Music For Nations. Their new album entitled "The Force" will be released in March on the companies newly launched Under One Flag label. The full track listing for the album is "Let There Be Death", "Metal Forces", "Fight With The Beast", "Demoniac", "Flame Of The Antichrist", "Contract In Blood" and "Thrash Till The Death".

●Following the success of the **"Speed Kills"** compilation album, **Music For Nations** are planning to release **"Speed Kills Vol. 2".** As with the first record **METAL FORCES** will be helping to compile the album in conjunction with **MFN's** Mark Palmer. More details and a track listing in the next issue.

●High Wycombe speed band **LUST** are in desperate need for a drummer. Anyone beyond SLAYER speed and is aged between 16-21 is suitable. The band describe themselves as a "very fast MERCYFUL FATE without the silly vocalist". Interested? Then phone Bazza on High Wycombe (0494) 712781.

●**NASTY SAVAGE** bass player Fred Dregischam has seriously injured his left arm in an accident and will be unable to play again for more than a year. The band are currently seeking a replacement.

●Seattle's **HEIR APPARENT,** who have just had their debut album "Graceful Inheritance" released by Black Dragon Records, now have a European fan club. For more details write to:- HEIR Force Headquarters, P.O.Box 77, 3980 CB Bunnik, HOLLAND.

●Guitarist Chris Poland is back in the ranks of **MEGADETH** replacing Mike Albert.

●There appears to be some mystery surrounding the future of Newcastle's **ATOMKRAFT?** First news reached us that bass player and founding member Tony Dolan had left the band following a disagreement over band management; and that the remaining members Rob Matthew (guitar) and Ged Wolf (drums) had replaced Dolan and were about to release a new single on Neat Records, as a follow-up to their "Future Warriors" LP, before setting off on a US tour in late March. However Tony Dolan has since contacted METAL FORCES to say that he has replaced both Matthew and Wolf with guitarist Andy Wright and drummer Paul Cowan in a new look **ATOMKRAFT** that promised to be "louder, heavier and faster than ever before".

At the time of going to press there was no confirmation if either version of **ATOMKRAFT** would be changing their name but presumably as founding member Tony Dolan has exclusive rights to the name he will keep it. Watch this space for further developments.

NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEW

● Atlanta based Hardgore thrash fiends **INCUBUS** have just recorded their debut demo. Since removing guitarist Steve Shoemaker (ex-HALLOWS EVE), Sterling Scarborough (vocals/bass) and Rich Fuscia (drums) have recruited ex-WARHEAD guitarist Joe Shelly.

PETE COLLINS

● Guitarist Pete Collins has now left **PRETTY MAIDS** due to personal reasons. The band are expected to record their new album for CBS - tentively titled "We Came To Rock" - before looking for a replacement for Collins.

● San Francisco's **RUFFIANS** have just had their 6-track mini-LP released in Europe by the newly launched Belgium label Whiplash Records. The labels second release will be a compilation album entitled "Metal Onslaught" and will feature the following bands: **EVIL PRAYER** (from Denmark), **ELIXIR** (England), **HOLSTER** (France), **STORMBRINGER** (Sweden), **BATTLECRY** (Belgium), **DEFENDER, VULTURE** (both Holland), **ALTER EGO, CRYING STEEL, MONOLITH** and **SABOTAGE** (all from Italy). For more info write to: Whiplash Records, Tiense-Vest 8, 3000 Leuven, BELGIUM.

RAN; KELSON

● Ebony Records will be releasing the second LP's by **TOUCHED** ("Death Row") and **BLADE RUNNER** ("Warriors Of Rock") in March. **SAMURAI**, another Ebony band, have just finished recording their second album. New signings to the Ebony roster include Worcestershires **TYGA MYRA** and **RAN; KELSON** whose debut album will be entitled "Hungry For Blood".

STEELER

● West German band **STEELER** are offering MF readers a chance to win an exclusive **STEELER** patch. All you have to do is to answer the following question: What do the initials of the instrumental track "S.F.M.I." from the bands last album "Rulin' The Earth" mean? Send your answer to: STEELER/MF competition, c/o H.Strehlau, Sedanstr. 17, 4630 Bochum 6, WEST GERMANY. The first ten entries received will each recieve a patch.

● **HAVE MERCY**, who have a track "The Omen" featured on Metal Blade's "Metal Massacre VII" compilation, have replaced John Brenner with their former guitarist Nick Ellingson.

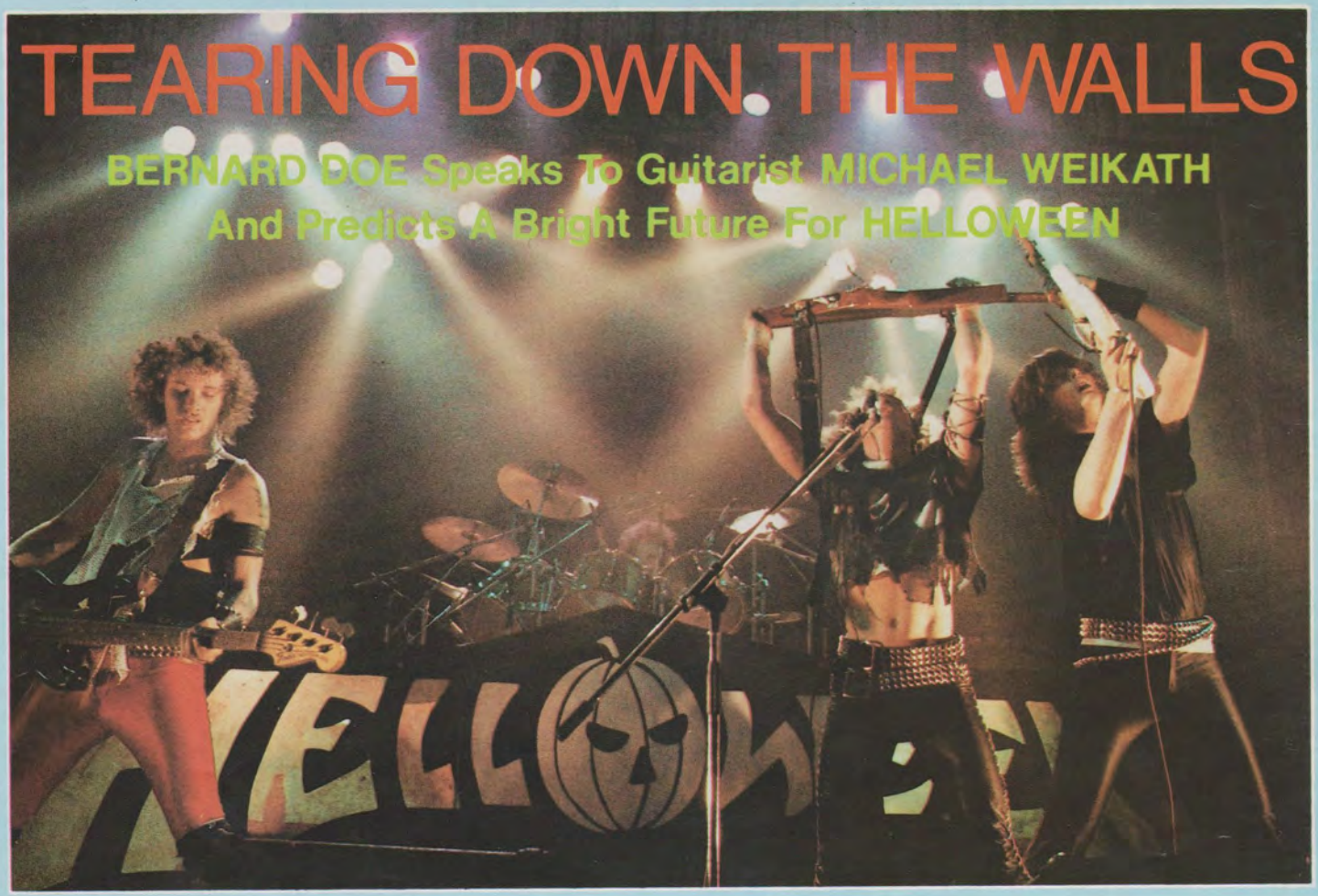
● **HOLY TERROR** is the name of a new L.A. based band formed by guitarist Kurt Kilfelt who appeared on the debut AGENT STEEL album "Skeptics Apocalypse". Joining Kilfelt are Mike Alvord (ex-BLACK WIDOW) *lead vocals/guitar*, *Floyd Flanary* (ex-THRUST) bass and Jack Schwartz (ex-DARK ANGEL) drums. The band are currently recording their debut album "Reign Of Terror" although so far no record deal has been confirmed.

● Chicago's **ZOETROPE** have finally had their debut album "Amnesty" released in Europe by Roadrunner Records. The album - reviewed in MF11 under the working title of "Break Your Back" - first came out in the US last December on Combat.

● New Jersey's **GENOCIDE** have replaced drummer Skinbones with T.Best. The band also have a new contact address: GENOCIDE Coffin Crew, P.O.Box 775, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, USA. **GENOCIDE's** "Reign Of Terror" tape (reviewed in MF15) is still available for $5.00(US)/$6.00(overseas) from the above address and comes complete with biog, lyrics and sticker.

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS

BERNARD DOE Speaks To Guitarist MICHAEL WEIKATH And Predicts A Bright Future For HELLOWEEN



Pic Limb

Whilst America is still very much at the forefront of pushing homegrown Heavy Metal through new barriers in the eighties, there can be little doubt that the European challenge is being spearheaded by the West Germans. SCORPIONS of course are already up there with the giants of metal while ACCEPT and, more recently, WARLOCK are competing commendably on a commercial level with their US counterparts. But it's on the vast underground metal scene that the Germans are making their presence felt the most. GRAVEDIGGER, DESTRUCTION, IRON ANGEL, RUNNING WILD and LIVING DEATH are just a few of the bands that are becoming faves of the underground hordes in a scene which at present is completely dominated by speed/thrash/death metal.

Now whilst HELLOWEEN themselves strongly object to being labelled a speed metal band, the Hamburg based four-piece have built up a huge following on the underground with their vinyl offerings to-date, and in my opinion have the potential to make it big on an international level; a view that is shared by many.

The foundations for HELLOWEEN were first laid by guitarists Kai Hansen and Peter Sielck in 1978 when they formed a band called GENTRY. At that time the band were playing SABBATH and URIAH HEEP covers but soon started to write their own material.

The band have had numerous line-up and name changes, but it was whilst under the moniker of IRON FIST in 1982, that founding member Peter Sielck was replaced by Michael Weikath, that the present HELLOWEEN line-up of Hansen (vocals/guitar), Weikath (guitar), Markus Grosskopf (bass) and Ingo Schwichtenberg (drums) finally came together.

Having changed their name to HELLOWEEN the band were invited to appear on Noise Records "Death Metal" compilation along with RUNNING WILD, HELLHAMMER and DARK AVENGER. The two HELLOWEEN offerings to "Death Metal" - "Oernst Of Life" and "Metal Invaders" - were just a taster of what was to come. The "Helloween" mini-album was well received in all quarters, but it's their recent "Walls Of Jericho" album that's really set the metal world talking. There's been rave reviews from the metal press and glowing compliments from fellow musicians. Why even MOTLEY CRUE's Mick Mars was making favourable remarks about HELLOWEEN to our own Dave Reynolds recently in London.

So with this current buzz surrounding HELLOWEEN, now seems a good idea as any to get the views of guitarist Michael Weikath in this long overdue feature on the band.

OK, Michael we've had the history lesson but how did you eventually arrive at the name HELLOWEEN? "We didn't want to carry on using IRON FIST because MOTORHEAD had brought an album out

Pic Limb

MICHAEL WEIKATH

with that title and we didn't want to have any connections with them, even though we had the name IRON FIST long before MOTORHEAD released that album. So we were searching for a few months for a new name without success then Ingo went to the cinema and saw a film called "Halloween" and suggested we call ourselves by that name. Well we thought that it was a good name but we didn't want to name ourselves after a film so we replaced the 'a' with an 'e' and called ourselves HELLOWEEN."

Have you played many live shows recently? "We've just played six shows with GRAVE DIGGER and five with FAITHFUL BREATH and will soon be starting a German tour with CELTIC FROST and GRAVE DIGGER."

Have you played outside Germany? "No, not yet". But there are plans for you to tour America isn't there? "Yes, there is, but I think we may get a new singer first, because over there on a long tour we might have problems with Kai's singing. As you know, the music we play is very complex and sometimes for Kai to sing and play at the same time is very difficult for him."

Have you started auditioning for a new singer? "Yes, we have but we're having problems in finding anyone good who can suit our style of music. What we want is somebody who's similar to Bruce Dickinson or Geoff Tate."

On the album track "Gorgar" you have that short "Peter And The Wolf" jig, why did you include that? "Gorgar is an old IRON FIST song and it was originally written like that for live performances but we left it in when we recorded it because we wanted to add a touch of humour to the album."

When I've reviewed your records in the past I've often mentioned the slight IRON MAIDEN comparisons. Would you agree with that comment? "No, not at all. Kai and myself have been playing for nearly 13 years and I don't know how long IRON MAIDEN or say METALLICA have been playing, but these and other top bands of today are not my idols. I like these bands but I'm not influenced by them at all; I mean our track "Phantoms Of Death" was written even before IRON MAIDEN were on the scene. The people I respect and have been influenced by are Ritchie Blackmore, Michael Schenker, Ted Nugent, Uli Roth and Jimi Hendrix. My influences are much more earlier than MAIDEN."

You have this figure "Fang Face" that has appeared on both HELLOWEEN album covers which again could be compared to MAIDEN and their famous "Eddie" character? "Yes, "Fang Face" is a mask that Peter Sielck brought back from the States and Kai liked it and wanted to use it. So now "Fang Face" represents HELLOWEEN and we have him doing things that we would want to do as you can see on the cover of "Walls Of Jericho". The "Walls Of Jericho" are all babbitts, boasters, poppers and the people in this world who are like a wall for us and we would like to break this wall down."

So do you plan to carry the "Fang Face" theme through to future album covers? "We don't know. If we get too famous I don't think we will use him so much because, like you said, a lot of people have compared him to IRON MAIDEN's "Eddie" and we don't need him that much."

What's your impression of the German metal scene at the moment? There seems to be a lot of talented bands coming out of Germany now. "I was very impressed when I saw bands like FAITHFUL BREATH and GRAVEDIGGER because before I thought that these were bands who were made out to be better than what they really were. But after I'd seen them play I had to recognize that they are very good musicians and their musical qualities are very good too. However, last year I think it was too easy for a lot of young bands who didn't have this musical quality to get record deals. But this year I hope it will be harder because there are so many heavy bands now that I think quality should play a more important part in getting a record deal."

You are going to record a video soon aren't you? Well we were going to make a proper video of "Guardians" for MTV to show in the States, but it was too expensive, seeing as we've had no previous experience of making videos. So instead I think we may shoot a live video on our tour although personally I prefer the original idea."

Have you set a goal for the band? "Yes, with HELLOWEEN we are looking for quality and I'd like to see if a German Heavy Metal band like us can be successful and produce quality records for over ten years without going commercial like SCORPIONS or ACCEPT. It is very important to us that we don't shit on our fans and sell out like that."

Well success seems just around the corner for HELLOWEEN and those last comments from Michael will be very reassuring for their ever growing army of fans. "Speed Metal With Class" is how I would term the bands music - sorry Michael but HELLOWEEN are still a speed metal band in my book - and if they can keep producing quality material like they have done to-date, then in the European field HELLOWEEN will certainly be in a class of their own very soon.

HELLOWEEN Fan Fare, c/o Stephan Wedeking, Eiderstrasse 5a, 2000 Norderstedt, WEST GERMANY.

BAND
1. SLAYER
2. Metallica
3. Exodus
4. Anthrax
5. Megadeth
6. Venom
7. Possessed
8. Celtic Frost
9. Destruction
10. S.O.D.

LIVE BAND
1. SLAYER
2. Metallica
3. Iron Maiden
4. Exodus
5. Venom
6. Motorhead
7. Megadeth
8. Dio
9. Raven
10. Scorpions

Pic Thor Hirak

READERS POLL RESULTS 1985

FEMALE SINGER
1. DOROTHEE PESCH
2. Lee Aaron
3. Wendy O'Williams
4. Maryann Scandiffio
5. Lita Ford
6. Betsy
7. Kate
8. Leather
9. Tam
10. Nicole Lee

MOST RIDICULOUS THING IN HEAVY METAL
1. MOTLEY CRUE
2. Kerrang!
3. Posers
4. Ratt
5. Venom
6. Kelv Hellrazer
7. Kiss
8. Punk In Metal
9. Satanism In Metal
10. P.M.R.C.

MALE SINGER
1. JOEY BELLADONNA
2. Tom Araya
3. Ronnie James Dio
4. John Cyriis
5. Geoff Tate
6. Eric Adams
7. King Diamond
8. Klaus Meine
9. Bruce Dickinson
10. Katon W. De Pena

ALBUM
1. HELL AWAITS
   SLAYER
2. Bonded By Blood
   EXODUS
3. Infernal Overkill
   DESTRUCTION
4. Spreading The Disease
   ANTHRAX
5. Speak English Or Die
   S.O.D.
6. Killing Is My Business...
   MEGADETH
7. Freedom's Rise
   LIEGE LORD
8. Seven Churches
   POSSESSED
9. Live After Death
   IRON MAIDEN
10. Evil Invaders
    RAZOR

BASSIST
1. STEVE HARRIS
2. Cliff Burton
3. Tom Araya
4. Joey De Maio
5. Lemmy
6. Billy Sheehan
7. Dave Ellefson
8. Cronos
9. Dan Lilker
10. John Gallagher

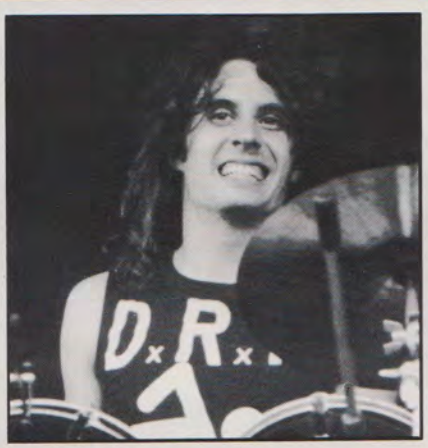
KEYBOARD PLAYER
1. DON AIREY
2. Jon Lord
3. Greg Guiffria
4. Jens Johansson
5. Claude Schnell
6. Alan Owen
7. Mark Stanway
8. Sentinel
9. Geoff Nichols
10. Garri Brandon

DEMO
1. IRON ANGEL
2. Destructor
3. Artillery
4. Possessed
5. At War
6. Thanatos
7. Heir Apparent
8. Slaughter
9. Mersinary
10. Ripper

GUITARIST
1. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN
2. Kirk Hammett
3. Kerry King
4. Dave Mustaine
5. Mike (Destruction)
6. Gary Holt
7. Scott Ian
8. Jeff Hanneman
9. Mantas
10. Dave Carlo

Pic Rock Index

MAJOR SUCCESS IN '86
1. POSSESSED
2. S.O.D.
3. Anthrax
4. Exodus
5. Artillery
6. Liege Lord
7. Iron Angel
8. Nasty Savage
9. Agent Steel
10. Razor



DRUMMER
1. DAVE LOMBARDO
2. Charlie Benante
3. Dan Beehler
4. Lars Ulrich
5. Tom Hunting
6. Tommy (Destruction)
7. Gar Samuelson
8. Nicko McBrain
9. Tommy Lee
10. Rob'Wacko'Hunter

SINGLE/EP
1. NIGHTMARE
   VENOM
2. Live Undead
   SLAYER
3. Armed And Dangerous
   ANTHRAX
4. Feel The Knife
   EXCITER
5. No Presents For Christmas
   KING DIAMOND
6. Overkill
   OVERKILL
7. I Am A Viking
   RISING FORCE
8. Barely Holding On
   LEE AARON
9. Running Free
   IRON MAIDEN
10. Red Hot'n'Heavy
    PRETTY MAIDS

LEE AARON

ANOTHER TIME ANOTHER PLACE But The Face Is The Same

DAVE REYNOLDS Visits LEE AARON . . . Metal Queen

Whenever female metal stars are in line for a MF feature it always seems to be yours truly who ends up interviewing them (not that I'm complaining!). In the past I've had the pleasure of meeting Lita Ford, Maryann Scandiffio, Wendy O'Williams, Doro Pesch and a couple of other metal women and I hope many more to follow....Betsy, Ann Wilson, Steffanie, Darby Mills...yes please.

I've interviewed Canadian songstress and self-styled Metal Queen Lee Aaron before. Cast your minds way back to our very first issue and you'll find the last instance MF crossed paths with the lady. Two years.. no, now we're in '86.. three years. A great deal has happened in that time and on this occasion I wasn't meeting her in some Soho pub but in the rather posh surroundings of a certain hotel in Bayswater which I always seem to be visiting in the cause of rock'n'roll.

Lee was late arriving back from a photo session that involved having to pose for around 28 rolls of film. And now she had to do an interview! Is there no rest for the wicked?

The LEE AARON BAND were on a European tour. London was obviously the showpiece date on the British leg. Despite a cold the lady looked in good health and sported a particularly great hair-do which surely makes Kelv HairRazer envious beyond belief. What's more, it's all her own Kelv!

Anyway with the release of her third album "Call Of The Wild" a few months ago it was only natural that we should begin the conversation discussing the subject. Over to you Lee.

"There's a couple of songs that aren't really my favourites on the record. Bob Ezrin was a very big influence on it, he's very orientated towards commercial American radio, that's why tracks like "Burning Love" are on the record. I actually didn't mind that tune too much in the beginning because we originally beefed it up and made it sound really chunky. My attitude towards rock'n'roll is not in this Death'n'Die metal area, because I don't want kids going home from my concerts wanting to slaughter their baby sister. I want people to go away and say 'Wow! I had a great time at the LEE AARON show'. We don't take ourselves as seriously as a lot of bands like that do. We go up on stage to have fun.

"But anyway we were talking about "Burning Love", it was given to us by the people at the record company (the original can be found on the first SPIDER - US version - album and has also been covered by KIX) because I'm always open to suggestions for outside material. So we recorded it and it sounded really good. So we left Canada to come over here to do the BON JOVI tour and Bob Ezrin was left to do the final mixes. While we were gone he added an organ, a tambourine and a black backing singer. When I heard the final mix copy it wasn't exactly what I had in mind!"

A lot of people I know reckon the production on the whole record isn't up to scratch and it's Paul Gross who "destroyed" the record's sound.

LEE AARON Pic Tim Keenan

"Despite what the back of the album says Paul didn't really produce that album. Bob Ezrin produces it. Y'see they originally got together to do a co-production but when Mr Ezrin gets involved in something, he likes to control the entire project which is how it went in the end." (Something Ace Frehley knows only too well. Remember the KISS "Elder" album?)

"Paul Gross had an accident just before the final mixes, he was out for about four weeks so Bob Ezrin did them all on his own. "Barely Holding On" (a cover of the SILVER CONDOR song) was his pet track though, that's why it says on the back of the record that he totally produced that track. I don't really wanna say anything negative about Bob though because working with him was a good experience for me. He's a very intelligent guy, he's been around a long time but he's got a very distinctive production style. The sound he got was a very raw, sort of live sound. Our original plan was to go for a more produced sound like "Metal Queen" which was digital. With all the latest gadgets available to producers these days why not use them y'know? Had we not been on tour at the time of the mixing then the final product would've been quite different."

Still in my opinion I don't think it's that bad an album, Lee's voice sounds stronger than ever and the songs, in particular "Evil Game" and "Beat'em Up" were the best she's done since the first album (I'm not much of a "Metal Queen" fan. There's something I don't like about that record).

The next album Lee is demanding co-production. "I'm never gonna have a piece of product I'm totally happy with unless I get my foot in the door. I'm insisting that myself and my guitarist and co-writer John Albani should be involved in co-production."

John Albani is the only permanent member of the LEE

AARON BAND it seems..... "It's funny. A lot of people must think I'm really difficult to work with because I have different players all the time. I'm really probably the easiest person in the world to work with. Being the front person of the band and especially a female - everybody's got an ego and I've just had problems dealing with those. It's just different things that come up. At the beginning of this year I was working with Chris Brockway, John Albani, Kim Hunt and a fella named Simom Brierley who was a session player we picked up at Phase One Studios in Toronto. Now Kim (ex-ZON, URGENT and HANOVER FIST) went out for the first tour in the spring and when he came back home he got asked to join a band with Doug Baynham and a couple of other friends of his called MARK FOUR. He felt obligated to join all his old buddy's from way back, so he left. I'm not angry, we now have a better drummer in Barry Connors who used to be in CONEY HATCH and TORONTO."

Simon had always been funded by this guy who owns Phase One and he kinda put the pressure on him to go and do this solo project so it was just one of those situations. I try not to let the line-up changes bother me because I still manage to progress and move on, perhaps not at the speed I'd like to be doing, but I've never been anxious to be famous overnight because overnight sensations never seem to last too long anyway. Each record seems to get a bit better and a bit better and I think the songwriting on the last record was a lot better than on "Metal Queen"."

You've just entered the video market with a live concert video. What do you think of that? "It was fun to do that. The only thing that is a little bit bothersome is that over here in Britain everything is unionized. You can't exactly get your hands behind the mixing console and do it yourself which I think every band should have the right to do. I don't know the guy in the truck putting it to tape. They never see it how you do, they don't know your material, when the solo's are and stuff like that. That's why I think every band should have the right to mix their live stuff. I think the live video sounds better than a lot of live stuff I've heard but I'm still not happy with it. I'm a perfectionist!" We both laugh.

"We had a problem a little while ago when we played this show in Austria and they recorded that live and we specifically told the guy in the truck that John plays in stereo, he has two speakers that are in stereo on stage. We've gotta have two mikes brought down two channels so we'd have the stereo effect. So they go and put two mikes on a Y-Jack and ran it down one channel so we ended up with a phasing problem and the guitar sounded like shit! So when we heard the final mix we refused to let it go out so we had to go into a studio to fix it ourselves".

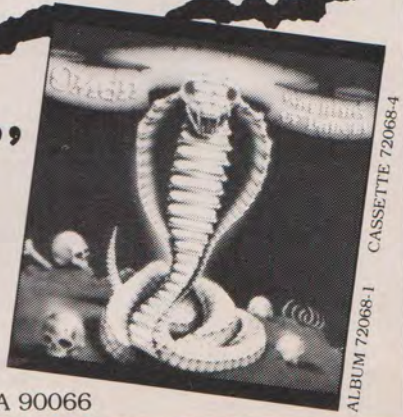
Lee and band were filmed at the London show in the Dominion Theatre by Trillion Pictures and have been allowed to mix it themselves so she should be 99% happy with that. The video that is currently on sale in Europe was also filmed in London but that was at the infamous poser's paradise The Camden Palace. Britain seems to be like a second home to Lee Aaron. "Oh yeah, I love it! I played in Canada for so many years that I'm really anxious to break the market over here and in Europe. We've sold so many albums in Germany and we're headlining anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 seat arena's which isn't too bad. This last year has gone pretty well. We recorded "Call Of The Wild" in the spring and finished it by April. In May and June we went on tour in Europe with BON JOVI also doing some of our own dates. In July we went back to Canada then came over to Europe again to do two festivals at Lorelei and Freiburg, West Germany in August. We went back to Canada again to do about fourteen more shows in Southern Ontario, this time with Kim Mitchell. I love him, I've loved him ever since he was in MAX WEBSTER (yeah, a great band!) - then we took all of October off to do some writing and pre-production for a new album."

Now the rest of '85 was accounted for with another European tour with German act TALON as support with Lee and Co not going home until the 23rd December. Such is a rock'n'roll life eh?

By now the all elusive major deal should've been announced with Virgin and '10 Records' and a new album should be on the cards very soon. Now Lee Aaron can begin to show the talent she really does possess and not just come across as all hype as she was circa "Metal Queen". Where the "glossy rock doll" tag appeared. That can now be cast off into the wind, but whilst Lee stands tall, well, as tall as her petite figure will allow amongst the female metal crowd, doubts have been cast about the wooden stage presence of her band. If anybody saw them at the Dominion show you'd know what I mean.

The trouble is, because Lee is the 'name' in the show the obvious focal point is of course Lee herself and it is unfair for her to carry the weight of the whole show on her shoulders which band members could help with - look at BLACKLACE for example. Not only do you have a gorgeous front lady but you also see a flashy drummer, wild bass player and an exciting (tho' admitedly quiet natured) guitarist. That's what the LEE AARON BAND should be like and I think will be like in 1986. You just wait and see.

O-men (ō'mən), n. 1. anything perceived or happening that is believed to portend a good or evil event or circumstance in the future; portent. 2. a prognostic. 3. prophetic significance; presage: a bird of ill omen. -v.t. 4. to be an omen of; portend. 5. to divine, as if from omens. **6. L.A. based band; medieval influences are the backbone of Omen's appeal i.e. . . . "warriors of metal. Their weapons are not used (metal detector) for killing but for creating great sounds of metal; also hear "Battle Cry."**



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The Writers Top Twenty Albums Of '85

BERNARD DOE

1. Spreading The Disease - ANTHRAX (Island/Megaforce)
2. Walls Of Jericho - HELLOWEEN (Noise)
3. Evil Invaders - RAZOR (Viper/Roadrunner)
4. Maximum Destruction - DESTRUCTOR (Auburn)
5. Power From Hell - ONSLAUGHT (C.O.R.Records)
6. Hellish Crossfire - IRON ANGEL (Steam Hammer)
7. Bonded By Blood - EXODUS (MFN/Torrid)
8. Skeptics Apocalypse - AGENT STEEL (Roadrunner)
9. Fight To Survive - WHITE LION (Victor)
10. Speak English Or Die - S.O.D. (Megaforce/Roadrunner)
11. Fear Of Tomorrow - ARTILLERY (Neat)
12. You Can't Have It All - CHROME MOLLY (Powerstation)
13. Executioners Song - RAZOR (Viper/Roadrunner)
14. Hell Awaits - SLAYER (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
15. I Am The Night - PANTERA (Metal Magic)
16. Infernal Overkill - DESTRUCTION (Steam Hammer)
17. Anthem - ANTHEM (King Records)
18. Tales Of Terror - HALLOWS EVE (Roadrunner)
19. Killing Is My Business.... - MEGADETH (Combat/MFN)
20. Master Of Disguise - SAVAGE GRACE (Black Dragon)

DAVE CONSTABLE

1. Speak English Or Die - S.O.D. (Megaforce)
2. I Am The Night - PANTERA (Metal Magic)
3. Heart - HEART (Capitol)
4. Surrender - JOSHUA (SMS Records)
5. Heartbreak - SABU (HM America)
6. Fight To Survive - WHITE LION (Victor)
7. Trouble In The Streets - BLACK SHEEP (Enigma)
8. Power From Hell - ONSLAUGHT (C.O.R.Records)
9. Hell Awaits - SLAYER (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
10. Prophet- PROPHET (Total Experience)
11. Gonna Raise Hell - SINFUL (Shades)
12. Seduce - SEDUCE (Psycho-Mania)
13. Van Zant - VAN ZANT (Geffen)
14. Seven Churches - POSSESSED (Combat/Roadrunner)
15. 7800° Farenheit - BON JOVI (Vertigo)
16. Tales Of Terror - HELLOWS EVE (Roadrunner)
17. When Midnight Comes - SURGIN (MFN)
18. Sugarcreek - SUGARCREEK (MFN)
19. I'll Get You Rockin' - THE GODZ (HM America)
20. Flight Of The Griffin - GRIFFIN (Shrapnel)

STEVE HAMMONDS

1. Out On Bail - LEGS DIAMOND (MFN)
2. Behaviour - SAGA (Portrait)
3. Delirious Nomad - ARMORED SAINT (Chrysalis)
4. Heartbreak - SABU (HM America)
5. Theatre Of Pain - MOTLEY CRUE (Elektra)
6. Killing Is My Business.... - MEGADETH (Combat/MFN)
7. Love - THE CULT (Beggars Banquet)
8. Everybody's Crazy - MICHAEL BOLTON
9. Invasion Of Your Privacy - RATT (Atlantic)
10. Shapes Of Things - GARY MOORE (10 Records)
11. Rockstorm - SPLITCROW (Guardian)
12. Bonded By Blood - EXODUS (MFN/Torrid)
13. Sugarcreek - SUGARCREEK (MFN)
14. Soldiers Of The Night - VICIOUS RUMOURS (Roadrunner)
15. The Right To Rock - KEEL (Vertigo)
16. Double Trouble Live - MOLLY HATCHET (Epic)
17. Gonna Raise Hell - SINFUL (Shades)
18. Twitch - ALDO NOVA (Portrait)
19. Salute - ORPHAN (Portrait)
20. Stages - TRIUMPH (MCA)

KELV HELLRAZER

1. Heartbreak - SABU (HM America)
2. Surrender - JOSHUA (SMS Records)
3. Fight To Survive - WHITE LION (Victor)
4. Van Zant - VAN ZANT (Geffen)
5. Prophet - PROPHET (Total Experience)
6. Fierce Heart - FIERCE HEART (Polydor/Mirage)
7. We Laugh At You - LYNN ALLEN (Loud Records)
8. When Midnight Comes - SURGIN (MFN)
9. Sugarcreek - SUGARCREEK (MFN)
10. Everest - EVEREST (Epic)
11. I'll Get You Rockin' - THE GODZ (HM America)
12. Gonna Raise Hell - SINFUL (Shades)
13. Does Anybody Hear? - XERON (Oronsay)
14. Right Here Right Now - PRECIOUS METAL (Mercury)
15. Ready To Strike - KING KOBRA (Capitol)
16. Poison Dollies - POISON DOLLIES (Passport)
17. First Licks - FOREPLAY (USA)
18. Living In Fiction - FAST FORWARD (Island)
19. One Look - DAY ONE (Day One)
20. Flight Of The Griffin - GRIFFIN (Sharpnel)

DAVE REYNOLDS

1. Night Of The Crime - ICON (Capitol)
2. Fight To Survive - WHITE LION (Victor)
3. Freedoms Rise - LIEGE LORD (Black Dragon)
4. Prophet - PROPHET (Total Experience)
5. I Am The Night - PANTERA (Metal Magic)
6. Get It While It's Hot - BLACKLACE (Mausoleum)
7. Little Monsters - HOLLAND (Atlantic)
8. Ready To Strike - KING KOBRA (Capitol)
9. Killer Elite - AVENGER (Neat)
10. Annihilation Absolute - CITIES (Metal Masters)
11. Salute - ORPHAN (Portrait)
12. Babes In Toyland - CASTLE BLAK (Black Dragon)
13. Weapon Of Love - PAGANINI (Vertigo)
14. Surrender - JOSHUA (S.M.S.)
15. Gonna Raise Hell - SINFUL (Shades)
16. Cyclone - VOW WOW (Eastworld)
17. Between Heaven'n'Hell - REZ (Sparrow)
18. Invasion Of Your Privacy - RATT (Atlantic)
19. Metal Revolution - LIVING DEATH (Earthshaker)
20. Seven Churches - POSSESSED (Combat/Roadrunner)

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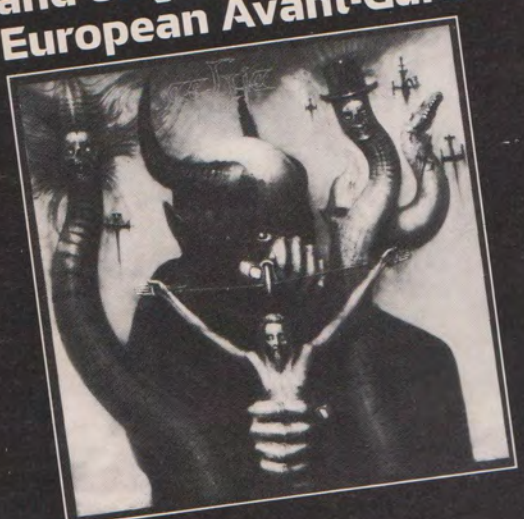

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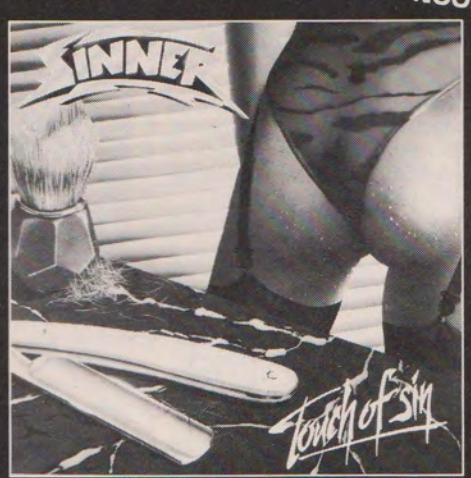

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DEMO-LITION

LEGACY

This San Francisco Bay Area band is already being strongly tipped to follow in the footsteps of EXODUS and METALLICA, and if you've been lucky enough to hear the bands 4 song demo the you will know that LEGACY certainly have the potential to go all the way.

Tha band were formed back in the summer of '83 and their line-up reads: Zetro Sousa (vocals), Alex Skolnick and Eric Peterson (guitars), Greg Christian (bass) and Mike Ronchette (drums). Musically I think LEGACY can best be compared more to EXODUS than anyone else with the emphasis on heavy riffs and complexed arrangements. "Reign Of Terror" is probably the best track on the demo althought the other numbers - "Burnt Offerings", "Alone In The Dark" and "Raging Waters" are equally as intense and underline just why the band are attracting so much interest from the top independent labels. Watch out for more LEGACY in MF soon.

For more info write to: LEGACY Fan Club, c/o Pat McKillop, 2837 Delmore Road, San Pablo, CA 94806, USA.

BERNARD DOE

VOOR

Hailing for Jonquiere, Quebec come VOOR, a four-piece consisting of Martin (vocals), Sylvain (guitar), Steve (bass) and Erold (drums). The band play blatant thrash inspired by the likes of SLAYER, DESTRUCTION and VOI VOD, and whilst the band still have a lot to learn musically, their hearts are certainly in the right place and are sure to pick up a sizeable following on the underground.

Best tracks on the bands 4-track demo are "Evil Metal" and "Like A Snake" although all the tracks suffer from rather weak lead soloing, (even if the riffing is leathel). Still VOOR are a band worth watching out for. Contact: VOOR, 2896 St. Sava, Jonquiere, Quebec, CANADA, G7S 2TB.

BERNARD DOE

SHARK ISLAND

Formerly known as THE SHARKS; SHARK ISLAND are the L.A.sters who brought us the wonderful "Alter Ego" LP. Yes those of us into serious music, will remember this LP boasted cuts like "L.A.Rock", "Under The Table" and "Into The Wheel". Well now the band have bounced back with a new name, two new members and a batch of new killer cuts. The current line-up features: Spencer Sercombe (guitars), Richard Czerny (vocals), with the addition of Walt (AMERICADE) Woodward(drums) and Tom Ruich (bass).

Now I know for a fact that SHARK ISLAND could fill Gazzarri's in L.A. for the rest of their lives; but to survive they are gonna have to take risks and play places like New York, Boston etc and even London. That as far as I have heard is the reason why SHARK ISLAND haven't broke it massive before now.

As far as the bands music goes; well I would rate them possibly L.A.'s hottest property along with POISON. Check out demo opener "Dangerous" which reminds me of prime Y&T. Richard Czerny's vocals go one step beyond Dave Lee Roth. This slow paced rocker has you hooked to SHARK ISLAND's brand of rock'n'roll almost immediatly.

The atmospheric balladry of "Read My Lips" is a high point for the finned ones as well, with it's characteristic guitar pyrotechnics from one Spencer Sercombe. The whole sound and style reminds me a lot of BILLY IDOL. "Sex Drive" has a killer chorus, backed by the best drum sound I've heard in ages from Walt 'Wildman' Woodward. These SHARKS seem to have had new life injected into them since Walt joined the band.

After a scorching version of "Grapevine"; comes the demo's best cut "Excess Marks The Spot". This number brings me memories of classic AEROSMITH and VAN HALEN coupled with the kind of powerful Eric Carr style drum pounds. This song has everything rock'n'rollers could wish for. From its catchy chorus through to its a'la Roth rap. Yep folks SHARK ISLAND are very hot property indeed. I suggest you enlist to the Fin Club now. SHARK ISLAND, P.O.Box 3422, Arcadia, CA 91006, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

AGENTZ

For once I get a tape that grabs me from the word go! AGENTZ demo is simply very good; full of fast but melodic rock played with great style and fervor. All the musicians coheise together well, with their overall sound not being too far off ALDO NOVA; except they lack the dynamics or high class production to get into his league.

No one track stands out as they are all as good as each other. Songs such as "Stick To Your Guns", "Waiting In Vain" and the LIZZYish "Running From The Nite" all impress. The whole tape gives a good idea of where they could go with the right backing. I got the impression though that the tracks were from two different sessions as the style gets a bit faster towards the final songs. It notices particularly on "Time Will Tell" because the keyboards became more prominent.

AGENTZ have been together now for around a year, and formed straight after Jose Ferro returned from a UK tour with MEANSTREAK. Ex-SAVATAGE member Patrick Dubs was then recruited along with Charlie Wang and Steve Romano who completed the line-up. They do play live, but I tend to think they ought to concentrate on demos at the moment as these are sure to interest record companies. I for one would like to hear more.

Write to: AGENTZ c/o Jose Ferro, 42-60 Main St., 7B, Flushing, New York, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS

POWERAGE

Meanwhile down in Italy the HM scene is hotting up what with the likes of SABOTAGE and RAFF making names for themselves. Now Alberto of METAL CAOS sends over the latest demo from the band he manages by the name of POWERAGE. Let's see if they can impress eh?

A six track package entitled "Hot Stuff" is what POWERAGE have on offer. Track one is an instrumental called "Road Runner" (Hoping to impress Cees eh?) which is ordinary fare though well produced. And the demo is like that all the way through, nothing really outstanding but well played and with a very good sound. Vocalist Fabio Iapadre, who also plays drums. He has a good voice and sings well in English. Overall the outfit have a very NWOBHM derived sound, listen to "That's The Way" or "Seven Old Man"(?!) and you'll hear what I mean. POWERAGE's line-up is completed by Gianni Ferrari (guitars), Silvio Iapadre (bass) and Roberto Fontana (guitar). A mini-LP of this demo is in the works.

Info: POWERAGE Management, via Tre Spighe 6, 67100 L'Aquila, ITALY.

DAVE REYNOLDS

DOUBLE O ZEROS

This lot really surprised me recently when they decided to turn HM, or "Cut-Rate Metal" as they like to call it. You see the D.O.Z.'s are a bunch of New Yorkers who have been playing in London for the last eight months or so and I feel real sorry for them because for most of this period they were playing Schizoid Punk type music, that only they could relate to and understand. Now if only they were playing the sort of music that they're playing on this demo then I'm sure they would have got really popular with the mainstream of metal fans. Anyway the DOUBLE O ZEROS consist of: Sam Serious (vocals), Diane (whose recently replaced Mace Beyers on bass), Joe Normal (guitars) and Mr. Insane (drums).

Amongst the nine tracks available on the demo check out "Cut-Rate Metal" which is pure metal mayhem. Elsewhere you have the near classy "Mr. MX-7", the hilarious "La-La-La", the downright crude "F**k You" and the zany mayhem of "Take 2 Asprin". If you like HM a little different then this is for you.

Write to: THE DOUBLE O ZEROS, c/o Mountain Records, P.O.Box 1231, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

PARADISE LOST

A terrible quality demo from a band who appear to be influenced by early-to-mid Seventies British rock bands judging by the dated sound. not much to really rave about 'cos I'm not really impressed with this at all. The demo is a four track affair entitled "Fretenetic" and can be yours for £2.10 (inc p+p).

The address is: Eddie Dutfield, 129 Sylvan Way, Seamills, Bristol, ENGLAND.

DAVE REYNOLDS

JADED LADY

JADED LADY features Terry O'Leary (lead vocals), Cathy Amanti (bass), Danelle Kern (guitar) and Kerri James (drums). This all-female outfit prove yet again that us Europeans are way behind in the HM all-girl rock stakes. Lead vocalist Terry O'Leary and bassist Cathy Amanti were formerly of LEATHER ANGEL and I can safely say that JADED LADY is a million miles above the sort of music that emerged from LEATHER ANGEL. To be fair though LEATHER ANGEL sounded alright to me at the time - two years ago.

Onto the cuts: "Rock'n'Roll Ain't Pretty" kicks off this three tracker - a neat little rocker it is as well with vocalist Terry coming across as a harder version of LEE AARON. The girls are certainly tight and Danelle Kern would certainly knock most girl guitarists for six.

"Break Free" has a much more mellow approach with an empahsis more on melody. "On The Run" closes the demo and although it has the same approach as "Break Free" it somehow lacks the bite.

I can only see a bright future for the girls as long as they don't keep changing line-ups. Image wise the girls have the right approach too. Joane Vesca clone Terry O'Leary certainly knocks the sox off any British female competiton. According to the bio Terry wants JADED LADY to become "The first successful female hard rock band in America" (What about the RUNAWAYS? - Ed). Well I certainly think things are looking in that direction at the moment. We will have to see. In the meantime you can contact JADED LADY at: 8033 Sunset Blvd., Suite 25, W.Hollywood, CA 90046, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

BLAZE

BLAZE is a new, young and promising band, hailing from the capital city of Sweden, Stockholm. The band's present line-up got together about six months ago, consisting of Robert Malmgren(16)guitar, Matti Ekstig(16)bass, Eddie Sand(20)lead vocals and Patrik Liljeberg(16) guitar. The drummer recently left the band and they are currently looking for a replacement.

On to the demo, which contains two powerful metal tracks. "Rock Through The Night" is one fine piece of melodic, but still heavy, metal, reminding me a bit of JUDAS PRIEST, whilst the second track "The Riddle Of The Gacing Trees" has a VAN HALEN influenced sound to it. Like I said, those two tracks are good but if they're gonna make it BLAZE have to find their own style of playing because as it is now, they sound just like too many others do.

As soon as they've found a new drummer they will start gigging in and around Stockholm. For further info write to: BLAZE c/o Robert Malmgren, Musikalvagen 100, 142 00 Trangsund, SWEDEN.

LENA GRAAF

ANNIHILATION

Yet more US speed metal, this time from Fremont, California. ANNIHILATION claim to be working hard at being original and at not being just another band following the trends. Well while I respect their attitude at trying to be different with their style of complex semi-thrash, at the moment I feel ANNIHILATION lack the class to capitalize on their interesting ideas. That's not to say the band should be overlooked because their 4-track "Laugh At The Sight Of Pain" demo is still worth a listen, especially "Burning Deep Below" which features some great soloing and instrumentation although the vocals leave a lot to be desired (I understand however, that the band are looking to add a frontman which would be a wise move).

ANNIHILATION may fail to catch the attention of the record companies with this demo but the potential is certainly there and I look forward to hearing future material. For more info: ANNIHILATION c/o Pat Saugar, 122 Gresel St., Hayward, CA 94544, USA.

BERNARD DOE

AIDEAN

What a strange name! From West Germany too, oh well despite the odd moniker the band have been around since 1980 with various line-ups. The current membership comprises Frank Heukemes (vocals), Markus Neutard (bass/synths), Klaus Neskudla (drums), Michael Gudjan (guitars) and Peter Nardo (guitars).

The band's latest demo "Rocks You Up!" shows the Mannheim based outfit certainly know what they're doing musically with a great all-round Americanized sound but I'm afraid the vocals, both lead and backing let them down badly, especially on "The Runaway" and "Promises Of Your Love". A severe tightening up in this department will go a long way towards AIDEAN becoming quite hot property on the German metal scene - check out the very S.A.D.O. like "Bullet In The Bone" for evidence. Excellent.

For further info contact: Mike Moller, Stollberger Strasse 1, 6800 Mannheim 31, WEST GERMANY.

DAVE REYNOLDS

SKULLS

This trio from New Jersey have been together for just one year but already they're picking up a considerable following on the club circuit. The group's first ever demo was recently sent to MF by bassist Mike Mindless.

The main attraction of the band appears to be guitarist/vocalist Charly Pip who has previously been involved with David Johansen (ex-NEW YORK DOLLS) in a bass playing capacity and has also worked with Billy Idol. So what better way for the demo to start than with a 'tribute' (I'd say one of the two fingered salute kind) to his former 'employers' in "Idols And Dolls".

Now the main direction these boyz are takin' appears to be something of a 'Glam Metal' one, not so much in image but rather because the sound they've got can best be described as HANOI ROCKS cum AEROSMITH in sound. Something they'd probably agree with.

Whilst the band may not appeal to a great many readers because they don't play at 100mph and sing about DEATH all the time I'd say there was a market for them and their live shows have been earning them a great deal of praise. The rest of the demo highlights a diverse selection of lyrical subjects from sex, in the quite commercial "Teenage Honey"; to death - "Graveyard Signal". The back-beat incidentally is provided by the reliable Frank X Hall.

The demo is available from the following address for 5 US Dollars and this also makes you a member of SKULLS drinking society, sorry, fan club called The Coffin Cruisers so you get a SKULLS pin and photo too. (Shit, they didn't send me a SKULLS pin!) Write to: SKULLS c/o Mindless Management, 58 S.18th St., Kenilworth, NJ 07033, USA.

DAVE REYNOLDS

CHINAWHITE

Not to be confused with the British band who put out an album on Mausoleum some time ago. They've been going around 2 years and are: Joey Kondal (drums), Dallas (vocals), Rusty Staiz (bass) and Criss Cross (guitar). The two tracks "Breaking Away" and "Victims Of The Night" are due for release as a single shortly. Both are original sounding compositions if a little uninspiring but worth having nonethe less. At present the songs are available as a demo for $3.75 (Europe) or $2.50 (US/Canada) including postage. Send money orders or cheques made payable to: Joseph Kondalski. Write c/o J. Kondalski, 4725 Southbridge, Toledo, Ohio 43623, USA.

DAVE REYNOLDS

SLAMMER

"WRATHCHILD's once proven replacement" reads a flyer for Pennsylvania act SLAMMER. Who are they trying to kid? No-one can replace the mighty WRATHCHILD! Maybe we oughta despatch the one'n'only Rocky Shades to the US to make these guys look small. Whaddya say Rocky?

OK, so with a boast like the above how do SLAMMER compare to the all-time Godz of Shokk Rokk? Ha! Ha! No competition. Whilst SLAMMER look quite good (tho' Kelv rolled on the floor laughing when I showed him the pix) they've a long way to go. I admit it's unfair to compare the bands in these circumstances but if they will go mouthing off..... prejudice aside SLAMMER's "Lethal Metal" demo tape shows the band have some talent, if not outstanding songs. Opener "Hells Night" is probably the best on offer with a great durtee guitar sound and excellent Klaus Meine like screams on the chorus viz "Do You Remember?...Do You Remember?" that's a goodie. From then on the demo loses ground. "Teaser" sneaks along at a snails pace. Uninteresting. "Failure To Respond" features a good rhythm but vocalist Todd Giornesto sounds too much like a poor man's version of MASS man Louie St.August. "Don't Need Love" is more of the same. However "Lethal Metal" brings SLAMMER back from death's door with a good chorus and playing but I am inclined to suggest SLAMMER appear to be more comfortable with songs like "Hells Night" and should re-think their approach. And biased as I am, I consider AVENGER's Greg Reiter to be the hottest axeman in Pennsylvania at the moment. Matt Socoski and Robby Kruis are good, but compared to Reiter, well, need I say more?

SLAMMER can be contacted at Sledgehammer Productions, P.O.Box 114, Flinton, PA 16640, USA. Worth it just to get hold of "Hells Night" on tape but they're doin' themselves no favours thinking themselves better than WRATHCHILD.

DAVE REYNOLDS

OBLIVION

Eighteen months ago a majority of the demos we received here at METAL FORCES had strong METALLICA influences. Now it seems everyone is copying the thrashing style of SLAYER; and OBLIVION are no exception.

"Intention To Kill" is the New Jersey based bands second demo and whilst offering nothing new in originality it still features some gut wrenching tracks in "Inflictor Of Pain" (with its doom laden intro -"Aftermath") and "Intention To Kill". "Strychnine" the remaining number is a little bit monotonous for my liking but OBLIVION still do enough to warrant further investigation.

Contact: OBLIVION c/o Michael Sica Jr., 16 Tuyahov Blvd., Toms River, NJ 08753, USA.

BERNARD DOE

PLANTAGENET

With a name such as PLANTAGENET I was expecting a progressive band on the scale of MARILLION or PALLAS, but never in my wildest dreams did I expect this - more British Speed Metal Merchants. All the songs lean towards 100 mph guitar solos's, rabid vocals and just general disorder. I cannot make my mind up whether I like this motley crew or not. Some of the songs, despite the bad production, are excellent; full of solid chunky guitar work and working riffs. But on the other hand some of the efforts are just plain embarrasing, tepid and lacking in originality.

PLANTAGENET are made up of: Alan Beswich (vocals), Mark Wilson (guitar), Tony Goodwin (bass) and Paddy (drums). The tape was recorded live at one of their rehearsals with the exception of one song which was recorded at a studio in Birmingham. This song "Warlock" is possibly the best track on the tape, probably because of the production.

I would give this band a good chance of going place providing they can cut out the driftwood from their set and concentrate on the best points.

Write to: PLANTAGENET, 78 Offmore Road, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 1SL, ENGLAND.

STEVE HAMMONDS

MYTH

MYTH are a West Haven, Connecticut based band who were formed in July '84, and are not to be confused with the Seattle based band MYTH (QUEENSRYCHE's Geoff Tate's old band). The band's four members are: Rob Schwartz (vocals), Roger Loiseau (guitar), Dan Lynch (bass) and Mark Minervini (drums).

Earlier last year MYTH released a single on Metal Force Records (no releation!) "Metal To The Pedal"/"Rock Or Die" which sold over 1,000 copies locally in its first week of release. Of the two tracks I much prefer the fast paced "Rock Or Die" which boasts some impressive vocals from Rob Schwartz.

The band have also recorded a five-track demo of more recent material which, compared with the single, I found a little disappointing. Through tracks like "Metal Is The Way" and "No End" still had enough going for them to hold my attention with some interesting riffs and a well constructed approach.

MYTH should soon be releasing their debut album and if you want to contact the band then write to: MYTH Metal Fan Club, P.O.Box 438, New Haven, CT 06502, USA.

BERNARD DOE

NO SUGAR

NO SUGAR... a name which simply implies no hype, no nonsense; just straight forward rock'n'roll. The formation of the band dates back to the latter part of 1981, when Jo-Jo Anthony (vocals) and Alan Alves (guitars) formed, what they refer to as a rather "unsuccessful club band".

In October of 1983, they recruited drummer Toni Snow and finally in August '84 bassist Tommy Rojo.

The three-track demo I received is very interesting stuff. "Lonely On The Outside" is a bit of a weird song. It reminds me a lot of AOR kings ORPHAN; although vocally Jo-Jo Anthony seems to be a bit lost on this number, but the acoustic passages amongst all the electricity is certainly different. I definately prefer the last two tracks; firstly "Rock'n'Rule The Nation", a KEEL style anthem and secondly "Louder'n'Prouder" which definately is fun all the way with a KISS style approach. Certainly one of the best demos I have ever received production wise.

Since the demo drummer Toni Snow has been replaced by Anthony White (ex-XCURSION from Las Vegas), also the guys are doing three new tracks with a video as well. I look forward to hearing them. Contact: NO SUGAR, 8384 Chino-Corona Rd., Corona, CA 91720, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

QUICKCHANGE

I'm told that QUICKCHANGE almost signed with I.R.S.Records - the label being impressed by their attitude if not their music AT THIS STAGE. My comments mirror the I.R.S. A&R department but I am sufficiently impressed with their musical approach to suggest that some of the more adventurous European labels find out what this band is all about.

The first thing that struck me about QUICKCHANGE's 8-track demo is how well produced it is. The musicianship is tight and the arrangements are good, the music giving me deja-vu of the first wave of American HM as we now know it back in '81/82.

Without doing a track by track review I'll just point out the highlights. Whilst all the tracks could be a little faster, being as they are almost in the TROUBLE/SABBATH vogue, it's the last cut that impresses me the most. "End Of The Reign" has all the makings of a classic HM track, highlighted by some excellent vocals from Dwayne Whitehead (who, admittedly could be a little more adventurous elsewhere). Also investigate "Going Down" which threatens to rip-off the riffs to RAIL's "Hello" intro and Robert Plant in ZEP days in the vocal department; "Street Lady" - another example of a track that could, if a touch faster, be really something. Think about it boys. Also "In Full Force" impresses, being a good opener.

QUICKCHANGE have in fact been together for four years so it's not as if they don't know what it's all about. The band's present line-up is: Dwayne Whitehead (vocals), Mike McCarthy (guitar), Dubs Anderson (lead guitar), Wayne Salvetti (bass) and John Kruczek (drums).

Contact: Larry Anderson, QUICKCHANGE, 16310 St. Louis, Markham ILL 60426, USA.

DAVE REYNOLDS

OXEN KILLER

This group are actually quite good if a bit one-paced in song structures (y'know Doom/SABBATH style stuff). The guitar sound is pretty dark and evil sounding, the arrangements aren't that bad, tho's the vocals need improving. The three tracks on the demo "Sacrifice", "F**king Stress" and "Night's Law" show that OXEN KILLER have the potential to gain a good reception from all you people in the HM Underground.

The band have had "Sacrifice" (English version) chosen to appear on the "Metal Magik" compilation put out shortly by New Renaissance.

Write to: OXEN KILLER MGT, Franck Villard, 90 Rue Jean Sarazin, 69008, Lyon, FRANCE.

DAVE REYNOLDS

AMERICAS MOST OUTRAGEOUS GLAM-DEATH BAND HAS ARRIVED!

Photo By Greg Scholl

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SAVAGE THRUST

Formed in 1984, SAVAGE THRUST actually admit that the reason they were formed was "to cash in on the current trend of PRIEST and MAIDEN imitators grabbing the big bucks".

Well with that dream shattered, you may be pleased to know that they don't sound like either PRIEST or MAIDEN but instead opt for a more modern speed metal sound in the ANTHRAX and/or early METALLICA mould. Nothing new in that you may say, but SAVAGE THRUST are still developing their style and come up with some interesting, if not exactly brilliant, song structures on their 4-track "Demo Of Doom" tape.

At the moment the band offer more potential for the future than actually delivering the goods at present, but SAVAGE THRUST are still worth investigating further, and you can get more info by writing to: SAVAGE THRUST, P.O.Box 206, Staten Island, NY 10302, USA.

BERNARD DOE

TRANSNAVIA

TRANSNAVIA hail from Denmark and consist of Morten Vad (vocals), Max Bachmann and Henrik Majgaard (guitars), Frank Majgaard (bass) and John Bachmann (drums).

Formed in 1982 they originally started out as a blues/rock band but now have a heavier melodical metal sound as can be heard on their latest 3-track demo.

Two of the tracks, "Bring It Out" and especially "Titanic" are both excellent with some tasty lead guitar breaks and inspired melodies. But whilst "Never Lasting Love" doesn't reach the same standard I'm sure we will be hearing more from TRANSNAVIA in the near future. You can do so now by grabbing your pen and writing to:- TRANSNAVIA c/o Holger Hansen, Fuglesangsvej 3, 8660 Skanderborg, DENMARK.

KEN ANTHONY

BLITZ

There must be over thiry bands with the moniker BLITZ. Has individuality gone out of the window I ask? This lot come from Sarasota, Florida and seem to be receiving a lot of radio airplay from that area as well as Ohio and California. One DJ went so far as to say - "I'm very impressed, it's refreshing to hear a band that writes songs as opposed to just riffs, and are concerned with the quality of the demo they release." With that I tend to agree; the tape showed great depth, the songs were similar to the quality of those on Y&T's mighty "Earthshaker" LP.

Vocalist Greg Anderson is great, his voice is full of emotion without sounding too cliched. He wraps his tongue around good lyrics with a good sense of timing and energy which is also displayed by guitarist Mark Severns, who keeps the songs going along neatly and quickly.

Of the songs my favourite is "Take My Youth" which powers along like a freight train not letting up for a moment. I can see why the tapes are creating an impact around the States because they're prime radio material; catchy chorus' and the guitar playing is not so fast and heavy that it alienates the band from mass audiences.

The other two songs "Authority" and "Prisoner Of Dreams" are both excellent; full of power and just waiting for that production push to get them to greater heights.

Write to: BLITZ c/o Dirk Van Tilborg, 1300 Westway Drive, Sarasota, Florida 33577, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS

NASTY SAVAGE

Well, you've heard the excellence of the music. Now listen to the band speak on the first NASTY SAVAGE "Wage Of Mayhem - Nasty Interview!!" tape.

OK, an interview tape is not the sort of thing you would play again and again like a demo or an album. But containing 40 minutes or so of hilarious interviews which at times are totally obscene and tasteless, this has to be a must for all NASTY SAVAGE fans.

The interview tape costs $6.00 ($7.00 overseas) including Postage and is available from NASTY SAVAGE, P.O.Box 2012, Brandon, FL 33511, USA.

BERNARD DOE

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Bone 001

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ST. VALENTINE

ST. VALENTINE are another in a long list of LA glam bands currently doing the circuit and apparently take their name from the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. The band features: Scott Thomas Richards (vocals), Eloy (keyboards), Marc Simon (bass), Robbi Sherre (drums) and Rusty Shinkle (guitars).

The 3-track demo is much in the keyboard glam style of those godz of sleaze RUBY SLIPPERS. To review bands like ST. VALENTINE is so easy for me because however tacky or commercial the music is, it's the whole object of glam rock. So I naturally give ST. VALENTINE the thumbs up. Check out for instance "LA Is My Home" for the ultimate commercial ditty of all time, possibly the natural successor to RISE's "Twitch City" or SILVERWINGS "R'n'R Are Four Letter Words".

The balladic "Chances" is sheer glam delight, whilst "Tell Her Anything You Like" is pure fun of the highest degree.

I seriously believe these guys along with POISON, RUBY SLIPPERS and JET BOY are the future of Rock'n'Roll. Let's face it LA is where it's happening glam and death wise. I see the UK now as the sinking ship with only a few bright hopefuls. So if you get to LA definately check out ST. VALENTINE or in the meantime write to: ST. VALENTINE, 6689 Sunset Blvd. Hollywood, CA 90028, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

RITUAL

RITUAL are a speed metal trio from Texas whose members - David Kurrash (guitar/vocals), Kyle Lewallen (bass) and Andy Terhaar (drums) - are all aged 14 making them by far the youngest band ever featured in METAL FORCES. Still despite their age RITUAL are certainly no joke and musically are as good if not better than a majority of bands who write to "Demolition".

The material on the bands poorly recorded "Metal Abyss" demo, their second, is fairly predictable and I'm being kind when I say that the vocals are crap, but the potential is there and RITUAL certainly have the time to improve their qualities. My advice to the band would be to continue writing material, rehearsing, giging and save some money for a decent quality demo, it's no good them producing bad quality demos every time they've written half a dozen new songs. If they can be patient then their time will surely come.

RITUAL's six-track "Metal Abyss" demo is available for $3.50(US)/ $4.50(overseas) from RITUAL c/o David Kurrasch, 229 Bexar Dr., Lewisville, Texas, 75067, USA.

BERNARD DOE

HITTMAN

One of the newest New York metal acts and bloody good they are too. Whilst L.A. can be proud of nurturing WHITE SISTER (The next MEGA band and rightly so!!), VAN HALEN, MOTLEY CRUE and LEGS DIAMOND, New York can hold its head high with a metal role of honour that includes KISS, STARZ, TWISTED SISTER, BLACKLACE, CITIES, MANOWAR, WHITE LION and the new breed of N.Y. metal that's wiping the floor with L.A. (Kelv would disagree!!) that includes this here mighty fine band by the name of HITTMAN.

They've been together for just about a year and are comprised of Jim Bachi (guitar), Mike Buccell (bass), Chuck Kory (drums) and Dirk Kennedy (vocals). The debut demo justifies their tag of "Precision Metal" 'cos that indeed is what it is.

"Hittman Theme" which probably amounts to their live show intro I guess, starts proceedings before the band smash into "Metal Sport". They actually remind me a little of LIEGE LORD, probably due to Kenedy doing his utmost to out-Halford, 'LORD vocalist Andy Michaud at times, but he also brings to mind AVENGER's Ian Swift too. Guitarist Bachi puts in a fine performance, in fact the guy is exceptional throughout, in particular on my favourite cut "Live For Tomorrow". The rhythm section should also get heaps of praise 'cos they're really tight and work well together as witnessed on the aforementioned track and also "Sleepless Nights" and the down tempo 'epic' "Winds Of Warning". Some band, I can tell you! Can I expect them to be deluged with interested fans and record labels alike?

Write to: HITTMAN, P.O.Box 1548, Melville, New York, 11747, USA.

P.S. HITTMAN have recently added ex-ALIEN guitarist Brian Fair.

DAVE REYNOLDS

FURY

I don't know a lot about this four piece AOR outfit except that they are managed by Media-Five Entertainment. This company also manages an amazing outfit under the moniker of MAGNUM who are the best outfit I've heard since DAKOTA. In fact they are produced by DAKOTA. More on MAGNUM at a later date. FURY though comprise of: Tim Lewis (lead vocals/bass), Steve Weiss (lead vocals/ guitar), Kenny Wendland (lead vocals/drums) and Greg Westmoreland (lead vocals/keyboards). FURY is a band aiming strictly for US chart success. "I Need The Night" is heavy duty AOR more in the style of ALDO NOVA/ICON whilst the other cuts "Don't Say" and "Don't Stand Here Waiting" are much more commercial in the ADAMS/ LOVERBOY vein.

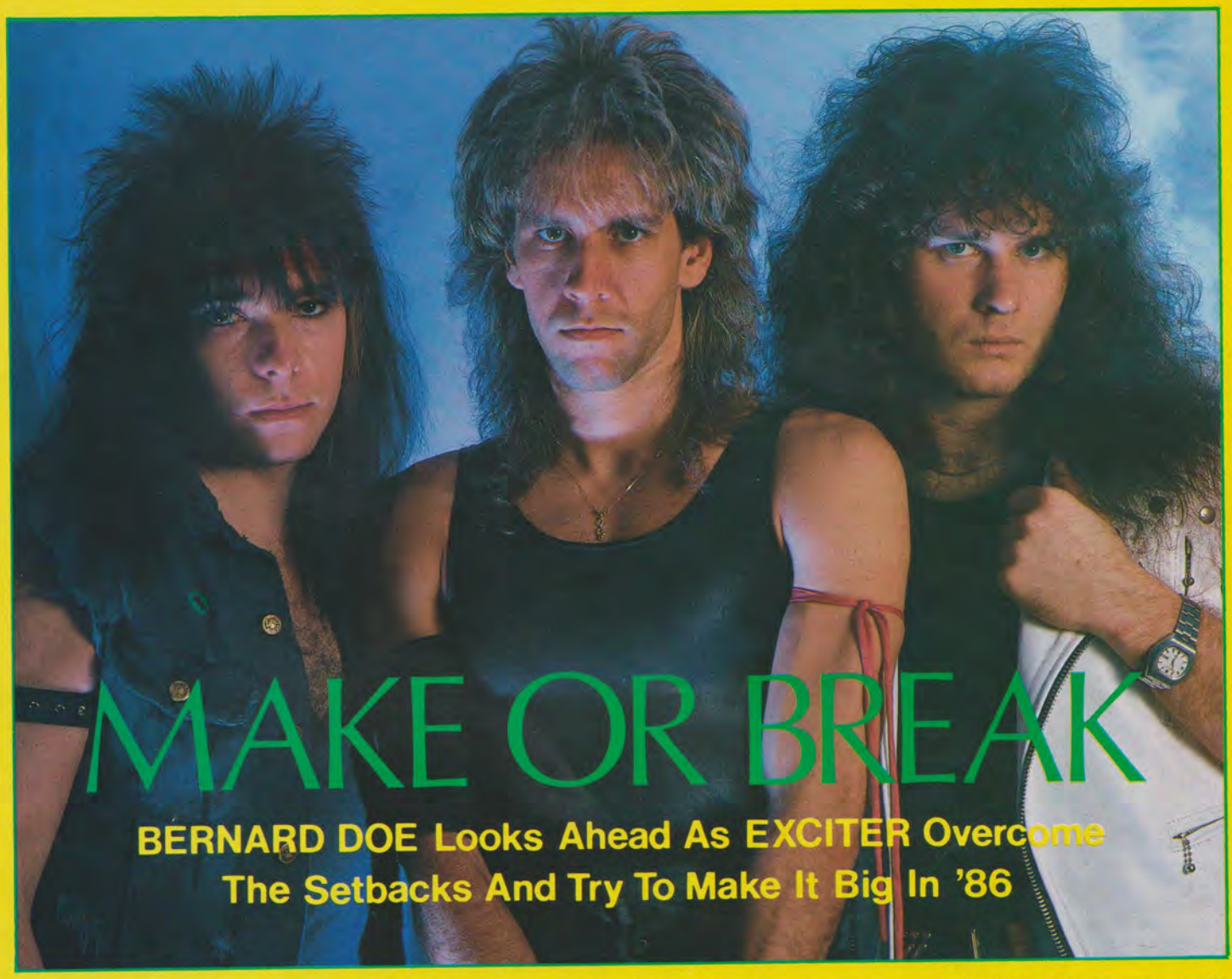
There are also a lot of modern pop influences thrown in for good measure. "Don't Say" has a reggae tinge and one of the four lead vocalists sounds distinctly like LOVERBOY's Mike Reno. The comparison to LOVERBOY is good news because after the last disappointing LOVERBOY effort there could definately be a space to fill for another band in the same mould. My favourite cut by far is "Don't Stand Here Waiting" with its clever pace changes and its original pop/rock sound.

The main thing that can be noted about this recording is the quality; it's production is beyond a lot of finished records I've heard recently. I think FURY will have no problem in getting a record deal; they definately have a viable sound. But maybe there's too many US bands doing this sort of thing at the moment, and FURY could miss out for not being different enough. Hopefully I'm wrong.

Write to: FURY c/o David A. Sestak, Media-Five Entertainment, Suite 600 Meridian Building, 400 Northampton St., Easton, PA 18042, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

Any bands wishing to be included in DEMO-LITION should send tape, photo and full band biography to: METAL FORCES, Demo-lition, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.



MAKE OR BREAK

BERNARD DOE Looks Ahead As EXCITER Overcome The Setbacks And Try To Make It Big In '86

Pic Brian North

The road to stardom has been a fairly bumpy one so far for EXCITER. The Canadian metallist's, together with METALLICA and ANTHRAX, were at the forefront of the new breed of North American speed merchants back in 1983. But whilst the popularity of ANTHRAX and especially METALLICA has gone from strength to strength, EXCITER's progress has been somewhat hampered by bad luck. Indeed when guitarist John Ricci left the band back in August last year, the first reports suggested that EXCITER were about to call it a day. However the band found a replacement for Ricci in Brian McPhee, and journeyed to London in December to record their fourth album "Unveiling The Wicked".

John Ricci's departure must have been a surprise not only for the fans but also to the other members of EXCITER - Dan Beehler (vocals/drums) and Allan Johnson (bass) - because the band were due to undertake a German tour with METAL CHURCH which had to be cancelled at short notice. Not that they had trouble in finding Brian McPhee. "Dan called me up out of the blue one day and within two days of John leaving I was a member of EXCITER," says Brian, "I've known Dan and Allan for many years; we were all in a band together before they formed EXCITER."

Even though Brian took only a week to learn EXCITER's material, it was too late to save the German tour. So what were the reasons for John Ricci's somewhat badly timed departure? Brian: "I think he was just fed up with the whole music business and now he's given it up and I believe is working in a store or something."

Well John Ricci hasn't given up the music business entirely as he's currently helping a young Ontario band SHOCK in trying to secure a record deal (the band were featured in "Demo-lition" in MF15). But the reasons behind his decision to quit EXCITER underlines the frustration and set backs the band have incurred over the past couple of years.

So what about Brian McPhee? Well compared to John Ricci he's a much more fluent guitarist and has added a more melodical edge to the EXCITER sound as you will hear on the new album. Brian's also more involved in the songwriting than John ever was and delivers "Brainstorm" - a solo guitar instrumental - to prove he's more than competent and not there just to make up the numbers. "Unveiling The Wicked", like the last album "Long Live The Loud", was recorded at the Britannia Row Studios in London with producer Guy Bidmead. Personally I wasn't that impressed production wise with "....Loud" - I still prefer the raw edged heaviness of the first album "Heavy Metal Maniac" - so I was somewhat surprised that EXCITER have chosen to use the same combination again for the new album. "Well the guys were really pleased with "Long Live The Loud" so they've decided to use the same formula again" explains Brian.

Whether that formula will turn out to be successful we'll have to wait and see. The production is certainly better, but the direction the band seem to be heading in musically I'm sure will loose EXCITER a lot of their old fans. That's not to say that the band have completely deserted their roots; "Live Fast, Die Young" for instance is vintage EXCITER, guaranteed to please even your most demanding thrasher. But their material now is getting predominantly more plodding and mainstream in the PRIEST/ACCEPT mould while the most commercial song on the album "(I Hate) School Rules" falls to the depths of sounding like W.A.S.P.

On the live front Brian informs me that EXCITER should be coming over to tour Europe after the new album has been released. The band have also recorded an extra track "Life On The Line" which is not on the album but will probably be released as a single in the near future. Anyway one things for sure, 1986 is certainly an important year for EXCITER I just hope for their sake that they can retain the respect from their fans. For a band who've been plagued with bad luck they certainly deserve some good fortune.

ROCK 'N' ROLL MACHINES

KELV HELLRAZER Gets Lessons On What It's Like To Be A True Rock 'N' Roller From ERIC MOORE, Whilst FREDDIE SALEM Supplies The Ad-Libs.

"In a heavenly war chariot they meet him, inviting him along to travel the skies. With an open mind bursting with curiousity, let us venture into the new world of the improbable and inherit what they bequeathed to us! While the mists of the universe close around the disappearing chariot, our friends will remember the miracle.....THE GODZ ARE HERE! (Back sleeve notes from GODZ first LP on RCA 1978).

Well I dunno about chariots disappearing in the mist, but the GODZ certainly did disappear for a couple of years after their second good, but disappointing effort. Their debut vinyl offering was a glorious LP with the sort of animal like bass playing that gave your speakers a hernia. Just check out the end part of "Candy's Going Bad" for details. Then there was "Gotta Keep A Runnin'" with it's drugs and rock'n'roll rap that should have had a million rockers heads turning; and let's not forget "Under The Table"; THE GODZ beat VAN HALEN at their own game on this number. Then came platter number two "Nothing Is Sacred". Well you had "714", "Rock Yer Sox Auf" and "Luv Kage" but elsewhere what you had was nothing short of a joke.

Zappo! THE GODZ then disappeared without any help from ANGEL's illusionist. Word then got back to England that THE GODZ were back two years later with only two surviving members, Eric Moore and Mark Chatfield who had picked up the pieces again with two young guys substituting for Bob Hill (who was killed in a car accident) and Glen Cataline who had joined ROSIE. Anyway things were supposed to take off again but they didn't and THE GODZ again departed leaving memories and a couple of live tapes.

With the name almost completely forgotten THE GODZ returned in 1985 with only one surviving member, an ex-member of THE OUTLAWS, two new guys hungry for success and an LP to boot. In fact "I'll Get You Rockin" may have even toppled that glorious debut.

In a hotel in Lancaster Gate I finally get to meet one of my all time heroes Eric Moore with his new sidekick ex-OUTLAW Freddie Salem. Firstly I asked Eric what happened after that killer debut? "Well on the second album we were in the studio recording and we got picked up by another record company, which meant that all the momentum was lost, people that were working on it were saying: "Hell I'm leaving next month I'm not working on it" and the new guys that had the record were saying "Hell we're busy, THE GODZ will come along and take care of themselves". It died a death. We lost a producer three days into the deal, I dumped my bike and wrecked my body real bad. I was laid off for eight months, and you cannot lose momentum for eight months in the rock'n'roll business, so we started over from square one again."

On the second LP a lot of the songs seemed to have too much Elvis style rock'n'roll for my liking. Would you agree? "Well we lost our producer from the first LP. We liked the first LP but we thought it was a little slick to us. I produced the second album though I'm not really a producer. All I know is straight rock'n'roll; so we made it straight rock'n'roll."

So what happened to the other original members of the band? "Well Mark Chatfield went to join ROSIE, then BOB SEGER, then MICHAEL BOLTON and now he's in money, making good music, good bucks and having a good time. Glen Cataline is out of the business entirely, too much pressure. The line-up in which we had Buddy Tuff and Geno was a wash-out due to the fact that we were trying to capture what the first band had, well you just can't do that in a rock'n'roll band. As far as the new band, well it goes on the strength of what we are now. There's more talent in this band than in any other band I've ever been in. I'm probably the weak link in the band as far as talent goes."

Tell me about the experience you had with ANGEL on that legendary tour? "Oh you must be talking about San Diego Sports Arena, that place has got the worst security in the world. The security at a rock 'n'roll show is supposed to be there to make sure everybody has a good time and they don't hurt themselves; the front row doesn't get crushed etc. The security in San Diego was worse than Alabama cops; they gave us hassle, so we blasted a couple of them, so when we got off stage we knew they weren't gonna mess with us. But when ANGEL got up there they were saying "these guys in white satin let's mess with them." Then the word got back to our dressing room that ANGEL couldn't get off the stage. They had done their show and could not get back to their dressing room. So we strapped on our guns and went over and got them. Freddie had the same trouble with the guys in that arena." Freddie: "Yeah, it was because of <u>that</u> sports arena that everyone spent the night in jail. Keith Richard, they threw him in jail, THE EAGLES one of their guys hit someone with a guitar. I kicked a guy in the head from the stage and spent the night in jail. Everybody spent the night in jail from that one hall." Eric:"Security is supposed to work for <u>us</u>; hell I ain't gonna take that crap."

How did the tour with ANGEL come about? "We had the same record company and the same agency, it was a natural package. We were in black leather and they were all in white satin. It was a killer show. We were the opening act, it's my job to make the audience ready for the headliner - I'm not there to blow them off - and THE GODZ were real good at that, we got our point across and got the crowd ready for ANGEL."

What were you doing in that long period before you put the new project together? Well, I spent eight months in Jail. I'm always in and out of jail. You know a week here a week there." Freddie: "Eric will probably be back in the slammer again in another five years. Probably in England." Eric: "Yeah, what are the jails like here? The main thing is I was never bored."

Don't you think THE GODZ music has changed since that first album? Back then there was a boogie feel to the music, whilst now the music is much more commercial? Freddie: "In America what we are doing is not considered AOR they wouldn't play our stuff on the radio. It would be strictly underground along with a lot of other hard rock'n' roll outfits." Eric: "I guess Freddie's production gives us a more commercial feeling."

Freddie what happened with your WILDCATS project? "The WILDCATS was just a one shot thing, CBS just said "Here take one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and go do an album." So I said sure man. I had great musicians, an extremely high calibre of session musicians and still it was a complete flop. It was a critical success and people who liked music liked the album.

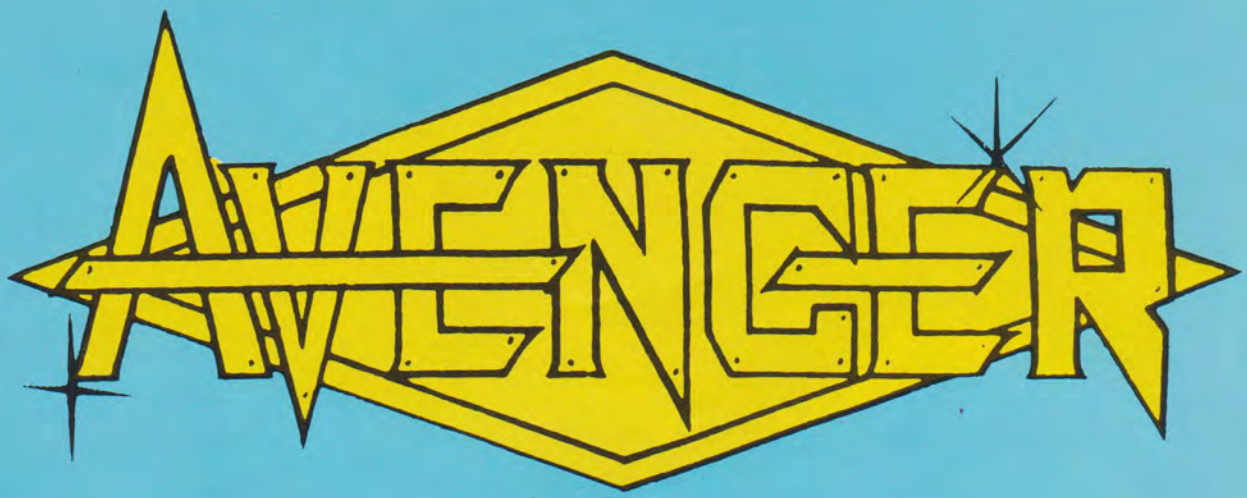
"I was still in THE OUTLAWS when I did the WILDCATS album. In fact I was still completing an OUTLAWS LP at the same time; it was the last LP I did with them "Les Hombres Malo". After that I was producing and just trying to stay alive by doing the stupid sessions y'know. I was in LA for a few months, just hanging out. Then I met up with Eric and started on this project. I'd then been out of THE OUTLAWS for about a year and a half. I needed a rest as well from being in THE OUTLAWS for seven years."

So where did you find Steve Schuffer (guitar/keyboards) and Jimmy Clark (drums)? Eric: "Freddie had worked with them before and we had tried out a whole bunch of people. The chemistry just worked with them."

It seems now that THE GODZ have a lot of different influences. For instance a song on the demo "Burnin' Bridges" featured some amazing gospel girl singers and there are horns on the title track. Where does all this stem from? "Well I'm amazed you like "Burnin' Bridges", it was a record company decision to leave that off the LP. The girl singers on that track are known as VISIONS and they're real nice chicks. If we played live with big record company backing, I would take them on tour with us. As far as the horns go, it's something I've wanted to do for ages, but the record companies said no it's too advanced for HM. Now everyone's doing the horns and chick singers".

Finally I asked Eric and Freddie their future plans? Eric: "Well we're hoping to set up a base in the UK very soon and we have easily enough material for a new LP so that takes care of the next LP problem. I'm gonna be helping Johnny Van Zant on his new LP and we definately have to tour Europe because GODZ are much more a live band than an LP band."

So there you have it Eric Moore, the legend, has returned with his GODZ. If any of you out there ever get to meet Eric Moore let me tell you that he is one of the most sincere people in rock'n'roll. Sure he's mean but this is a guy who knows his rights. Let's hope success is his this time around.



PICK OF THE BRIT METAL KILLERS

DAVE REYNOLDS Chooses Newcastle's AVENGER

Hello America! Lock up your Mothers. Lock up your Grandmothers. Hide those old-age pension books 'cos AVENGER are on the prowl. The band whose motto is "Nothing's too wild - or old - to tame", are heading your way. Don't touch that dial. Read all about it.

'Twas a fine, sunny December morning when I left the South far behind from Kings Cross, on board one of those British Rail Inter-City 125 trains speeding northwards bound for Newcastle. By the time Doncaster came round I, and all the other fortunate souls aboard were thrust into a grimy, wet, dark afternoon. So this is the North eh? Dull and dreary? I hadn't banked on Newcastle. Despite winter condition - cold and rainy - I had a great time.

One of the finest (and too few) British metal bands, AVENGER, are based in Newcastle, which is kinda weird 'cos they only have one bona-fida Geordie in the line-up. That man is drummer Gary Young, a guy who loves his heavy metal and the pleasures of touring. Not that AVENGER have been doing much of that recently. The rest of the crew are, vocalist Ian Davison Swift, bassist Mick Moore and, newest recruit, Greg Reiter on guitar.

'Twas the diamond duo of Swift and Moore who met me at the station once I'd set foot on Geordie tarmac. Greg Reiter was back home in America, (yes, the guy is 100% All American) whilst I dread to think what Mr Young was doing at the time. Probably on autopilot! First stop was at Wallsend and the home of the Neat Records operation for a viewing of the Metal City video due out on the market shortly. This features VENOM, WARFARE,SARACEN, AVENGER plus cameo's by Dave Wood (Neat's boss) and the lovely Diane (P.R.person), along with various scenes of Newcastle that would put the opening credits of the British soap "Brookside" to shame. To be honest I couldn't help but fall on the floor laughing at some of it! I mean howzabout the bare breasted nubiles running through a wood for SARACEN's benefit; Cronos on a horse and then, the (intentional) TWISTED SISTER piss-take during the "Under The Hammer" clip by AVENGER! I'll give Neat credit, the video DOES entertain but perhaps not in the way they planned.

It's Neat who have been responsible for the release of all AVENGER product so far, including the legendary "Too Wild To Tame" single (featuring legend in his own lifetime, Brian Ross, on vocals) and two of the best British HM albums in "Blood Sports" and "Killer Elite", even if the production on both does, to all intents and purposes, leave a lot to be desired.

In the case of the "Blood Sport" album the blame can be attributed to the producer, Martin Smith, as it was the first album he'd produced. As Mick rightly points out "You can't hear my bass at all". Since the release of the musically stunning second album 'Killer Elite", AVENGER's rise to fame and fortune seemed to have ground to a halt. Why?

Ian Swift: "We've had problems regarding support tours which wasn't our fault but the particular band we were supposed to have toured with. Another problem was with having Greg in the band. The powers that be don't like having "foreigners" in English groups because it's depriving a fellow countryman out of a job so anything in the UK tour wise has been out of the question."

It's not as if AVENGER hadn't tried getting a fellow Briton in the band. They auditioned countless would-be guitar heroe's but none came as good as Philadephia's Greg "My Axe is packed" Reiter. He's a pretty reserved guy by all accounts but not when it comes to crankin' out the metal. Greg is a guitar fanatic and has that certain guitar hero image that slays the girls at fifty paces. But don't get too mad girl's 'cos that's his wife Nancy in the AVENGER vids on Metal City. Apparently she's a model ('n' I'm sure I've seen her somewhere before) and cuts a kind of Pantera (THOR's wife - not the band!) type image to boost your viewing time. The video should project AVENGER's name into at least the homes of VENOM fans, but will it, in the

long run do them more harm than good? Mick Moore, always the optimist: "Will it do us any good at twenty quid a shot? I can't really see it selling.

"We didn't have much of a say in that at all, we just did what we were told to do by the director, but at least we did the thing which is the main thing I suppose."

Ian: "People will enjoy "Under The Hammer" because they can see it's a piss-take. The other two, well, one isn't really worth looking at, whilst "Run For Your Life" is acceptable because at least it's got some sort of story line to it.

"It was good at the time because it was a first for the band. It's like your first record, when you get it out you're really pleased with it and then you sit back and think about it and you find out how terrible it is. After the fuss had died down over "Blood Sports" I listened to it and put my head in my hands and almost cried. It was a rushed affair, we did a tour of Holland and as soon as we got back we were asked to do the album and went straight into the studio."

However now things seem to be looking up for AVENGER as Neat seemed to have realised that there are people out there who look to Neat for good, solid British metal bands and that there is more to life than shoving VENOM down our throats all the time. Hopefully the band will be given full encouragement and support from the label.

As you read this, AVENGER should be embarking on their first ever American tour, taking in about 20 or so dates on the East Coast. Up until now the major support fanwise has emanated from Holland where AVENGER have toured several times and from which many a lewd story has come from, most of which are unprintable and that Gary Young features quite reguarly in them! I met Gary Young between pubs one night in Newcastle City Centre. What can I tell you? You've really got to meet the guy to believe him, he's a laugh a minute. And was I drunk or did he really tell me that he thinks Dave Constable has got his head screwed on?!?

It was during one of these pub visits, in the Jubilee, if I remember correctly that Mick and Ian introduced me to their O.A.P. following, noteably one lady of advancing years who delighted in telling us that she'd had her "tubes cut"!! I quite liked the one in the black'n'white candy striped trousers though. "Swifty likes to be mothered" quoth Mick Moore.

The up'n'comin' US dates should be a turning for AVENGER. For one thing the fans will be considerably younger - unless they bring their mothers with 'em, and for another they'll be able to really thrash out their frustrations at not playing a live gig in ages which should provide for quite some performances. As Mick says "It's been really frustrating sitting around doing nothing for so long. We were badly let down last year with that support tour of Europe that fell through so we're raring to go."

Ian: "The tour is about twenty dates down the East Coast of America - the rainy part so we'll feel at home!! Greg's the one whose been arranging everything for the tour and we've got support from Neat so we can't wait."

There was talk of doing a few gigs with another of my raved over bands, LIEGE LORD. If that comes off what a bill eh? I just wish I was able to get over at such short notice to see that! Mick: "I've corresponded with LIEGE LORD's bass player Matt Vinci for quite a while now and we both have the utmost respect for each other's music so it would be good if we could do some gigs with 'em."

Mick is the member of the band who has handled most of the group's promotion and remarked to me about the letters he receives from AVENGER fans worldwide, even as far apart as Brazil (where he's known as a "f**kin' friend" by admirers there!) and Poland. "Y'know I feel sorry for them, I try and send 'em things now and again. One guy wrote to me praising the "Blood Sports" album which he'd bought on the black market for which he'd saved up a month's wages for!"

Now that's dedication. Anyway if you're lucky enough to have AVENGER playing near you on that American trip get the hell over to see 'em. It should be a hot time and, talking of hot times and places, I gotta tell ya that there's one helluva lot of pussy in Newcastle and I'm not talking about Brian Ross' cats! Take your pick. As for the pick of British heavy metal I'll choose AVENGER everytime. Got me?

from the FRONTLINE

Pic Rock Index

CHARIOT
Marquee Club
London

Handicapped by the loss of regular drummer Jeff Braithwaite, (temporarily out of action - who nose why!) CHARIOT still put in a set of top quality HR/HM which lies far beyond any competition in England today.

These guys give 110% entertainment with energy, humour and instantly memorable songs played well. Raw power is the key to this bands potential success. Highlights of the set include "When The Moon Shines" (a stunning opener), "Meet My Match", "Screams The Night" both from the new LP and the ultimate "Vigilante" (twin guitar mayhem), but the tempo is maintained throughout - a true headbanging delight. All in all a great night. Great gig, why I even got drunk and there was this gorgeous young lady and..... Anyway it just won't be the same seeing them at the Odeon.

DAVE CONSTABLE

EMPYRE
Chiddingfold Club
Chiddingfold, Surrey

I wasn't expecting anything truly outstanding from EMPYRE, but, damnit, they surprised me. Although plagued with a few instrument problems, they had excellent clarity as far as the PA was concerned and the crowd of around 300 had one helluva time. Usually HM gigs at this level attract only a handful of denim clad kiddies. This however, was different, people turned up en-masse, most of whom were between 13 and 18 and many were, somewhat surprisingly, little girls who probably sit at school dreaming about George Michael or DURAN DURAN - certainly not EMPYRE.

This, to me, was an encouraging sign. This means that in this area at least, kids are appreciating hard rock as well as pop and this lot certainly appreciated the finely honed hard rock of EMPYRE. The band powered into the opening number "Secrets For Sale" and there was about as much activity down the front as at any SLAYER gig. Heads were banging and the band could do no wrong. Despite a few cock-up's (obvious, to me anyway) the group displayed incredible maturity, impressive songwriting and a great degree of potential.

The strong vocals of Steve Arnold were a highlight, in particular on the best songs aired ("Swordplay", "Worlds Apart" and "For Your Love" in particular) and whilst there could be improvements made in the arrangements on others, such as "Stagefright" and "First Blood", the main thing was that each song definately had something going for it, either great hooks or catchy chorus lines and the band gelled well together. A good sign. Of course since EMPYRE's inclusion in MF9's 'Demo-lition' section they've brought in Ian Westley, a 100% KISS fanatic on bass and Paul Stevens on drums. Additions that have tightened up the band no end. Stevens in particular is a really strong drummer and he had no trouble cloning Anton Fig's moves on the surprising cover of Ace Frehley's "Rip It Out" (tho' Dean Balchin needs to improve the lead guitar solo!). Other covers played were RIOT's "Outlaw" and THIN LIZZY's "Don't Believe A Word" which went down well.

It was at this point that I was asked out by a 15-year-old punkette who has obviously been watching me all evening! Sorry love, I'm much too old for you. Anyway, EMPYRE proved to me that here is a Sussex band determined to make it and on this showing I have every belief that they will. Rhythm guitarist Mark Randon claimed it was a poor performance, well, if that was poor I'd like to see EMPYRE on a good night. Look out for them.

DAVE REYNOLDS

Pic Lesley Cracknell

Pic Brian Rademacher

MOTLEY CRUE/CHEAP TRICK
Birmingham Odeon

I must admit I was looking forward to this show if only to see CHEAP TRICK (one of my all-time fave bands). Due to the limitations of being a support act i.e: poor sound, poor lights, little stage space, CHEAP TRICK came across as a pale shadow of the band I saw a few years back. The spontaneous energy was just not there; a band just going through the motions. Sure they went down OK (no encore though) but they didn't bring the place down and I just couldn't get into their performance - shame.

Shame is a good way to start a review of the main embarressment of the evening though. Let me put the record straight before I start: a) "Too Fast For Love" is an excellent LP in my opinion, b) "Shout At The Devil" is even better, c) "Theatre Of Pain" is crap. I like MOTLEY CRUE on the basis of their earlier material although guys dressing up like women is a joke to me.

However this all said, at Birmingham MOTLEY CRUE showed themselves to be one of the most godawful pathetic live bands it's ever been my misfortune to witness. As musicians they fell flat on their faces (Tommy Lee excepted although even his drum solo was overlong and tedious). Mick Mars came over no more than an average guitarist. While Vince Neil didn't look much of a frontman either - so over-rehearsed it's embarrassing (maybe Dave Lee Roth can carry it off but not this guy). If he said "Let's See Some Hands, Birmingham" once he said it twenty times. Help me.

As for the show - well a moving drum kit was mildly entertaining for about two minutes and as for fireworks, well VENOM get through more special effects in one song than CRUE did all evening. The real factor in destroying the show was the choice of songs. About six from "Theatre Of Pain" - all bad without exception - and only one from "Too Fast For Love" - "Live Wire" (the highlight of the show) - plus "Red Hot", "Looks That Kill" etc from "Shout At The Devil". That's it keep it commercial guys. As for the finale of "Smokin' In The Boys Room", "Helter Skelter" and the final encore of "Jailhouse Rock", well MOTLEY CRUE prove they can play the worst cover versions ever. Yuk.

That dreaded night was torture and it seemed that many others (mostly guys who had taken girlfriends) agreed with me as could be seen by the less than manic response.

DAVE CONSTABLE

SAGA
Hammersmith Odeon
London

Well it's not strictly metal, but SAGA are probably one of the top live bands in the known Universe as well as being some of the finest musicians in existance. They delivered a set of slick rock/progressive/metal/semi-disco that had me spellbound. Such talent has gone relatively unrecognised for some years but me and Hellrazer know a good wimp band when we see one and so I'm raving.

Newer stuff from "Behaviour" mixed with older material such as part of the Chapters Saga(!) ("How Long", "Don't Be Late" etc) made this one of my fave gigs ever and what a light show.

DAVE CONSTABLE

SAVATAGE
Marquee Club
London

Florida's metal merchants took time off from recording their latest album in London to play this one off gig at the Marquee. In fact this show was arranged so late that I doubt if there were too many people outside the London area who could have known about it. But SAVATAGE still drew a sizeable crowd and delivered a storming performance.

"City Beneath The Surface" heralded the bands entrance and opened the show in a menacing style, then powered their way into the excellent "Midas Night". Immediately Jon Olivia won over the audience with his dominating stage presence and superb vocals. If you thought this guy was good on record then believe me he kills live, venturing into dimensions that a majority of HM vocalists can only dream about.

SAVATAGE are far from a one man band; Jon's brother Criss on guitar put on a exciting display of guitar wizardry while drummer Steve "Dr. Killdrums" Wacholz and new bassist Johnny Lee Middleton provided the driving rhythm as the band ripped through all the choice cuts from their vinyl released to-date, plus a new song "Hyde", before concluding with a superb medley of "Sirens/Dungeons Are Calling".

The band came back for three encores; "Power Of The Night" - the title and best track from an otherwise disappointing third album; "She's Only Rock'n'Roll" - an almost cringeable commercial number from the bands forthcoming album "Fight For The Rock"; and a pounding version of the old SAMSON song "Earth Mother" - Bruce Dickinson never showed up as the band had promised prior to the gig, but who needs Dickinson when you have the powerful Jon Olivia? Unfortunately gigs like this are few and far between in the UK, but hopefully it won't be too long before SAVATAGE return to these shores for an extensive tour. If they do don't miss 'em.

BERNARD DOE

JOHNNY LEE MIDDLETON

Pic Peter Blake

KINGS OF THE NIGHT TIME WORLD

Pic Joe Giron

DAVE REYNOLDS Hunts Down PANTERA . . . Right On The Edge

Onward We Rock! Certainly words to warm the collective hearts of each and every person who consider themselves a heavy metal fan. Let me ask you a question though. How many of you have heard PANTERA?

PANTERA are an awesome beyond belief heavy metal band from the heart of Texas but as yet they remain shunned by major labels and 'major' music press. PANTERA, you may be surprised to learn, have however released not one, but three top quality albums on their own Metal Magic label, the most recent being "I Am The Night".

"I Am The Night" is a record that had those heads bangin' here at MF in a manner not seen since, say METALLICA's "Kill 'em All". So what's so special about PANTERA? A great deal I say, but you've really got to check 'em out on record before you read any further.

Ah. There you are! Back from the Metal Magic Mystery Tour. Good. Now let's give you some serious background info for your delectation from none other than PANTERA's own Vinnie Paul and Diamond Darrell who play drums and guitar respectively.

"I Am The Night" comes hot on the heels of '84's superb "Projects In The Jungle" album, a record that oozed with all the talented excellence that '83's "Metal Magic" debut had promised. So let's begin with asking a very silly question. Are PANTERA pleased with how it turned out.

Vinnie: "Yeah we're pretty happy with it, obviously we could all still do better but I think we've created a great atmosphere, it's really raunchy so it's OK".

What I can't understand is why you haven't struck up a major deal yet? "We can't understand it either! But we've finally got some inside connections with major labels. Gold Mountain are really taking an interest and so are Jet, Geffen and Atlantic so we're still waiting. Hopefully by the summertime we'll have got a deal."

Darrell: "Nothing was really happenin' until LOUDNESS and KEEL played here a few months ago. I gave a tape to Marc Ferrari of KEEL of our stuff and he's been a great help to us 'cos he liked the stuff and he must've let somebody at Gold Mountain hear it."

So hopefully you'll be recording you next record for a major? Vinnie: "Well if we haven't signed a deal by summertime it's gonna be that we'll put another album out on Metal Magic. We're just gonna keep going, we're writing new material at the moment."

If you are lucky enough to get a deal I hope they don't wimp you out like, say Geffen have done to BLACK'N'BLUE! "If we do get a deal it's gonna be only to play heavy metal. There will be no wimping out. When BLACK'N'BLUE's first album came out it was OK but that last one was pretty bad. There will be no Top 40 stuff from us!"

You seem to have a good situation with The Eld'N producing at Pantego Studios. Will you be changing all that when you do get that elusive deal? Darrell: "We'd like to keep The Eld'N as producer. We would like to record at say The Record Plant! The Eld'N knows what PANTERA is all about but our studio isn't as top quality as the ones in L.A. for instance. If we could record a PANTERA album in somewhere like The Record Plant we'd be able to get a real monster sound!"

As if they haven't got a monster sound already! By all accounts they're

pretty hot stuff live too. Have you just been limited to playing shows in Texas so far? Vinnie: "We've played only in a five-state area that includes Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico - there's a tremendous heavy metal following in Texas and Louisiana. It's just real sad that the radio stations and people don't support it, they try to keep it down. Texas is perhaps the biggest market for heavy metal in the United States."

Is a tour of Europe a priority, or do you want to hit Los Angeles first?! Vinnie: "We'd love to do a tour of Europe, but we really wanna tie up a major deal first so we can get the backing to do it. We get an unbelievable amount of fan-mail from The Netherlands, Germany and Britain so hopefully once we get that deal we'll be able to go to Europe and Japan too. We should be touring from June-July and do some East Coast dates and might have something working with KEEL, but it does depend on getting the deal."

Do you feel you can stay in Texas rather than move to L.A.? Vinnie: "We don't wanna move to L.A. unless we have to. However we have created the biggest market we can for ourselves in Texas by playing Houston, Dallas, Austin etc. in the last three years. We could do with a change of face just to see how our music stands up in Los Angeles or New York. We would'nt mind moving to New York."

Darrell: "We're really glad we <u>are</u> from Texas and we're a radical metal band! We've never been influenced by what's happening in L.A. or started playing out with CRUE or RATT. We really kick some ass and always get the audiences to get down the front and rock."

Who do you see as your immediate competition? Vinnie: "It's kinda hard to say." Darrell: "We've a really different sound but we always seem to be put into that CRUE or RATT category. We wanna be in a league with PRIEST who are really heavy yet retain that certain something that makes 'em so good."

Vinnie: "Our biggest influences are bands like IRON MAIDEN and JUDAS PRIEST. It's that raw energy that comes from British music. I suppose we retain an American sound too."

Yeah, you seem to have got a really heavy edge yet still retain the melody that even CRUE and RATT can't compete with. Vinnie: "We're grinding! Our music is what makes us heavy. but our vocalist (Terrence Lee - the line-up is completed by bassist Rex Rocker - but you should know all this already!!) is what makes us melodic. We're really into thrash but there's too many bands that sound like that so we want to be more in a VAN HALEN, JUDAS PRIEST mode, which is what we first got into years ago, but metal's just got heavier. We don't listen to death metal but we aren't pussyin' out. METALLICA is our favourite band and there's some other really good bands in that vein."

Pic Joe Giron

DIAMOND DARRELL

I noticed there's some METALLICA style riffs on "I Am The Night" and "Valhalla" on your last record! Darrell: "Don't blame that on me! I recently got into METALLICA but every riff I've ever written I've never ripped it off anybody. I just play what moves me. In actual fact we jammed with METALLICA when they came through here and we had one helluva time."

You seem to be developing a pretty flashy image I've noticed too. Vinnie: "I guess it's because we started out listening to VAN HALEN, but we don't really want a flash image and we don't have anybody telling us to look like this or that. Maybe when we get a deal we might work on a look or something, but really it's the music that matters, we don't wanna look like any other band and we certainly aren't glam."

That's funny 'cos we have a sort of bet going here as to when you're gonna shave off your beard Vinnie! "Ha! Ha! I did do it one time but I looked just like Blackie Lawless from W.A.S.P. so I quickly grew it back!!"

What about that Ace Frehley belt buckle you're wearing on the album cover Darrell? I thought my brother was the only one to still have one of those. I haven't seen one in years! "Well I grew up with KISS. They provoked me to grow my hair long and I went down and got a perm! KISS provoked me to rock and I don't really give a f**k what anyone says about that. KISS got me rockin' and they're still a great band."

Do you plan on putting any new records out, in your usual manner just after the summer? Vinnie: "If we put it out on Metal Magic it'll be out at the end of the summer, yeah. If we sign to a major we'd have to do it to their schedule but we

don't wanna mess around for six months getting it out. We're writing material for it right now - we don't like hangin' around. What would you like to see on PANTERA 4?"

Well, more of the same really. PANTERA heavy metal. No wimping out. "You got it!"

Have you ever considered licensing your Metal Magic albums in Europe? Darrell: "We've had a lot of offers but we've held out because we don't want any connections before we get a major deal. We don't want to sign contracts whereby we have to give 20% to this company and so on 'cos they have the rights to our stuff."

Vinnie: "Nobody owns anything of PANTERA's. Anyway all our records are distributed through Important and Greenworld and they get to Europe so people can get the records so it's no big deal."

There is just one more question concerning "I Am The Night". What do the initials "D.G.T.T.M." mean? Vinnie: "Can I tell him? OK, it means "Diamond Goes To The Movies" It kind of sounds like the sound effects from movies like Friday The 13th and Rocky IV."

Darrell: "I wanted to do a raw guitar solo. Really let rip. It definately sounded weird!"

Does all of this satify your lust for PANTERA info? I certainly hope so for I honestly believe that this band, above all others, are going to make the biggest mark on American heavy metal in a long, long while. If I were in the likes of MOTLEY CRUE, RATT, KEEL, JUDAS PRIEST, or DEF LEPPARD I'd certainly be very worried. PANTERA are out to kill. As Vinnie told me: "We're a Heavy Metal band and we aim to stay that way." You got it!

REX ROCKER [Top] AND VINNIE PAUL [Bottom]

Pic Joe Giron

L to R: Terrence Lee, Rex Rocker and Diamond Darrell

Pic Joe Giron

TERRENCE LEE

Pic Joe Giron

THEY ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT

WASTED

While PRETTY MAIDS and KING DIAMOND continue to claim all the glory at international level for Danish metal, there remains a handful of bands waiting in the wings to be recognized by the outside world. ARTILLERY of course are already causing waves on the underground scene following the release of their excellent debut "Fear Of Tomorrow" on Neat Records. Whilst MALTESE FALCON, having released one album "Metal Rush" back in 1984, look set to burst back more powerful and heavier than ever before. EVIL too should be releasing a new album soon.

But what about WASTED? Avid readers will remember that the band appeared in our very first issue three years ago and they also have a debut album to their name, "Halloween... The Night Of", released by the Danish label Midas Records in 1984.

WASTED was formed in August 1982 by Al Sorensen (lead guitar), Tommy Kromann (bass) and Morten Barth (drums) who were joined some months later by guitarist X-Mas and vocalist Mick Sonne. It was with Mick that I recently met up with in a freezing Copenhagen. Mick, WASTED started out as a pop band and since then you've been playing different kinds of metal. First commercial and now much more heavier. Why do you keep changing your style? "Yes, it's true we started out playing pop-rock. Then we started to progress, playing heavy metal, and will continue to progress for as long as we're together as a band."

Tell me about your deal with Midas Records? "We signed to Midas in 1983 and they released about 1,000 copies of our debut album "Halloween...The Night Of". The cost for studio time, hiring the studio and pressing of the record was 55,000 Danish Krone which we paid for ourselves and were promised we would get the money back.

"ZYX Records in Germany brought the master tape for licencing the album in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. All we got out of that deal was 2,100 DKr and five men had to share all of that money.

"Unfortunately we had signed for one more record before we realized that they were such a poor company. I think we've been fools and I'm not sure we're gonna release our new album "Ought To Be Bad" with them. OK there's a contract but... we'll see."

Were you satisfied with the last album? "We all think "Halloween.. The Night Of" is a great debut album, but of course there's always things that we could have done better. "Ought To Be Bad" is much better though I promise."

When will the new album be released? "It should hopefully be out in late March/early April". I've been told it will be like TROUBLE and early BLACK SABBATH. Is that true? "Yeah, I guess it is a little like TROUBLE and SABBATH but it's still WASTED."

What do you think of the Danish HM scene? "The scene is really weak, but what can you expect from Denmark? Our company and others just don't dare compete with the real HM experts like Music For Nations in England or Roadrunner in Holland. Luckily we have great guys here in Denmark who put on really great concerts. My favourite Danish bands are MALTESE FALCON and KING DIAMOND."

What are your plans for the future? "Well once we've got the album out we're hoping to get a deal with another record company. Our aim is to become one of Europe's major live bands and we've certainly got the energy and enthusiasm to do it."

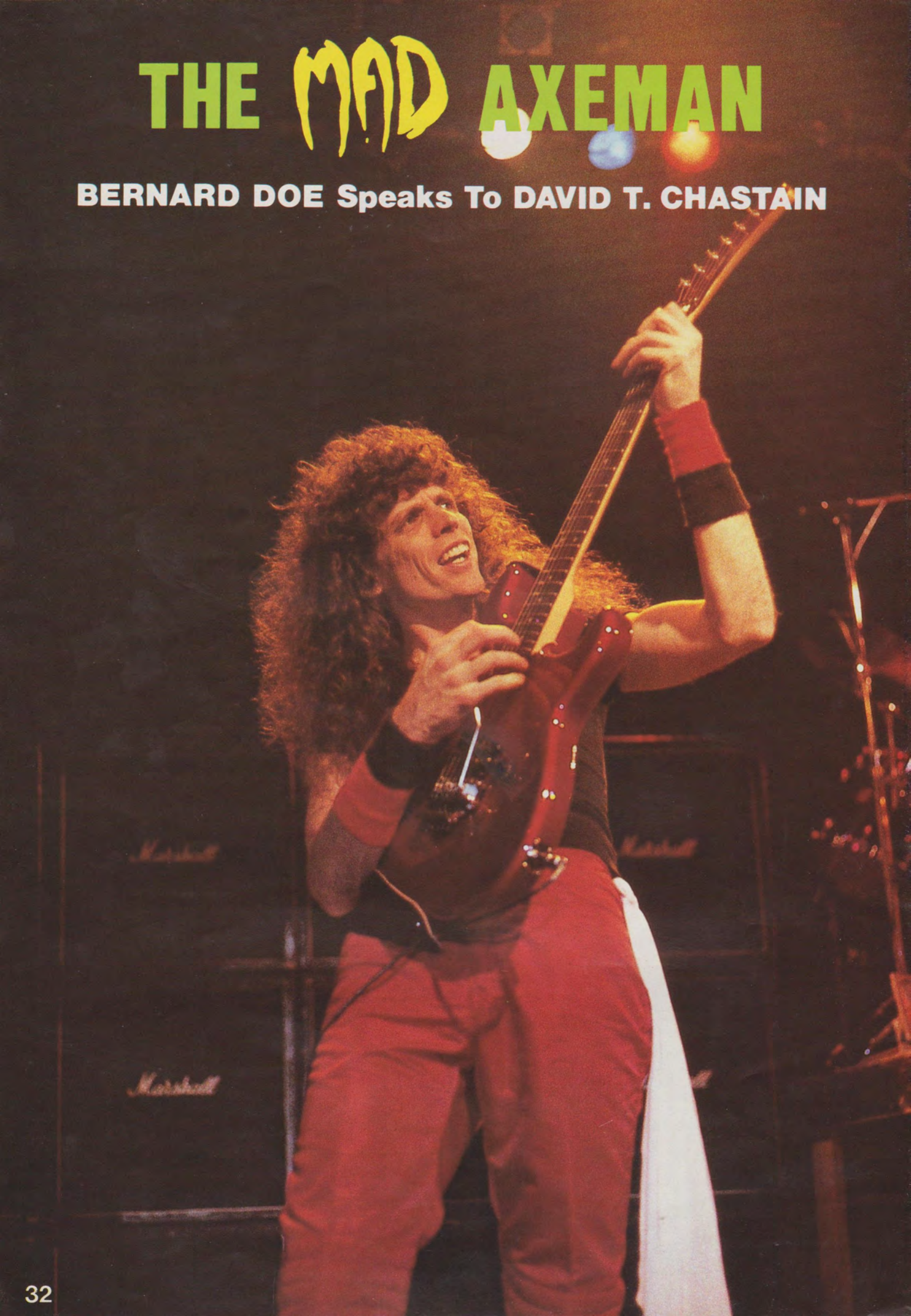
Finally Mick, have you got anything to say to the readers of METAL FORCES? "Yeah, we salute bangers all over the world and hope they will get WASTED someday and join the club."

Well the latest news on WASTED is that Tommy Kromann has been replaced by bassist Johnny and the band are currently shopping a tape of the new finished album around the record companies looking for a new deal. For more info write to: WASTED c/o Mick Sonne, Frandsen, Strandvanget 30, 2791 Dragor, DENMARK.

KEN ANTHONY

THE MAD AXEMAN

BERNARD DOE Speaks To DAVID T. CHASTAIN



Whether you're into thrash metal, speed metal, heavy metal or even heavy rock, everybody loves a guitar hero and through the years the metal/rock scene has produced many a worthy talent. Hendrix, Blackmore, Van Halen, Schenker, Moore and Malmsteen are just a few that have been worshipped by the global masses. But what about a name for '86? Well if there's any justice in this business then David T.Chastain should certainly be a household name amongst rock fans come the end of the year.

David has already made a mark on the metal scene with the release of the solo CHASTAIN album "Mystery Of Illusion" last year on Mike Varney's Shrapnel Records label. The album which has recently been released in Europe by Roadrunner Records also featured female vocalist Leather (ex-RUDE GIRL), drummer Fred Coury and bassist Mike Skimmerhorn. Skimmerhorn, along with Russell Jinkens(vocals) and Les Sharp(drums), is also a member of David T.Chastain's Cincinnati based band CJSS, who have just released an exciting debut album "World Gone Mad" (on Black Dragon Records in Europe and Leviathan Records in the USA) of which a review can be found elsewhere in this issue. But to find out more about the man behind the axe, I recently spoke to David T. Chastain and began by asking him how he got into the music business? "Well I'm totally self-taught; I've never taken any guitar lessons or anything like that. But when I had learnt how to play a little I started to get involved with musical theory and started to read a lot of music books. I also used to sneak into music theory classed at the colleges I went to, who didn't consider a guitar to be a "real instrument", and I got a lot of my musical knowledge that way.

"The first bands I was in played mostly original material. A band I was in called TARGET played really progressive heavy rock, which is basically the same style I'm playing now. Then I got into a band called SPIKE who were more of a commercial type metal band, although a couple of the tracks on the new CJSS album are SPIKE songs - "The Gates Of Eternity" and "Living In Exile"."

You recorded an album with SPIKE didn't you? "Actually we are on three albums. We had one SPIKE album, "The Price Of Pleasure" and we also appeared on two radio station compilation albums. There was also three SPIKE singles".

How did the CJSS project come together? I believe the band was together before the CHASTAIN "Mystery Of Illusion" album? "Three of the guys from CJSS were in SPIKE. What we did was we got tired of playing the commercialized metal, so we replaced one member of SPIKE with Russell Jenkins who became our singer and we decided to play a lot heavier kind of music and it seems to be working out pretty well."

How did you get involved with Mike Varney? "He has a column in Guitar Player magazine called "Spotlight" and I sent him a tape. He didn't like SPIKE because they were too commercial, but I'd also sent him some stuff I was doing on the side which he really did like. And basically what Varney's doing at the moment is putting together groups to record albums because his view is that nearly every band has a weak member or two and if he pieces them together he has strong players in every position; which is what he done with CHASTAIN."

But that line-up was just a one off. You didn't play any live gigs at all did you? "Yes we did. A major label, Manhattan Records, who are a part of Capitol was really interested in the band CHASTAIN but they wanted to see us play live first. So they financed everything to bring the band together, paying everyones expenses, and we played seven or eight shows; two of which were for the record label. The first guy came to see us and just flipped out on the band. But then the President of the company came and saw us, and at the same time America was going through this big anti-metal backlash; MTV were pulling it off the air and no radio stations were playing it, so nothing came of the deal.

"Anyway we've just finished recording the second CHASTAIN album which will be out in April or May."

Will it be the same line-up as on the "Mystery Of Illusion" album? "Yes it will, apart from a new drummer Kenny Mary who used to play in TKO."

So now you've got two full-time bands? "Yeah, that's right. Also Mike Varney and some other labels have talked to me about doing an instrumental type album later this year. But my first priority right now is CJSS and our debut album."

How did you get involved with Black Dragon Records? "After the first CHASTAIN album came out I was contacted by various labels about doing the second CHASTAIN album. Well I told them that the band was signed to Shrapnel(US)/Roadrunner(Europe) for another record, but I said that I had another project CJSS and sent them tapes and eventually sorted out a deal with Black Dragon."

The CJSS album has a cover of LED ZEPPELIN's "Communication Breakdown". Why was that included? "Well the first time we played that song was at a concert. We had already done two or three encores, and were out of material but the people were still wanting another song. So we were back stage thinking of what we could throw together and we all knew that song, so we went out and played it and it went over tremendously, so we've been playing it in concert ever since. Also in the States it will give us a lot more radio play."

Now you yourself come from Georgia, Atlanta. But while most musicians go to LA or New York to seek fame and fortune you've gone to Cincinatti, Ohio, which is not exactly noted for its HM scene? "Well I've been tempted to move to LA or San Francisco or New York, but it's just such massive competition in these places; even the main bands are struggling to break even. Also I'm finding that a lot of people are actually happy to find a band that are not from LA or New York.

"Surprisingly HM is pretty much happening right now in Cincinatti. We can play live as much as we would like to play; there are a lot of bands here and it's generally pretty good."

What other guitarists do you admire? "I like everyone from Holdsworth to Malmsteen, and I also enjoyed Rhodes. The guy in LOUDNESS Akira Takasaki, I think is really good, and there's also a couple of new guys that nobody's really heard of yet; Tony McCalvin and Paul Gilbert, who've been working with Varney and will have albums out real soon."

Listening to your playing, especially on the CJSS album, I notice a lot of classical influences. Is this a type of music you listen to a lot? "My first main guitar influences were the really heavy duty fusion players like John McLaughlin and Allan Holdsworth. But at the same time I do like listening to classical music although to me classical music is semi-sterile; something that was written 200-300 years ago. I like the scales in classical music but I like the freedom more in the jazzier fusion type stuff." Finally David, are there any plans for you to come to Europe? "Hopefully we will be there soon; it all depends on our success with the record to warrant the trip. We're waiting right now to see what the initial response is."

Well with the CJSS "World Gone Mad" album and the new CHASTAIN album already recorded, 1986 has already been a busy year for David T. Chastain; and with the instrumental album and hopefully some live appearances in Europe to come, let's hope that all the hard work can be rewarded with the success it richly deserves. I'm sure it will.

For more info write to: CJSS c/o Leviathan Records, P.O.Box 399063, Cincinnati, Ohio 45239, USA.

MANIAC POSSESSION

LARRY LALONDE of POSSESSED Tells DAVE REYNOLDS All About It

There are many of you who just couldn't wait for the debut POSSESSED album to appear in the stores. There was a buzz about this band that had filtered it's way through the metal underground system, saying that California's POSSESSED were about to take the thrash world by storm. And when the album "Seven Churches" did make it out, via Combat in the United States and Roadrunner in Europe, then all the reports about this quartet proved to be true. POSSESSED instantly became the new gods of thrash, and even an old sceptic, like myself, was bowled over by them.

It would be pointless to try hoodwinking you into believing that I've always been a thrash fan at heart. No, my musical tastes are more in tune with the flash direction than thrash, but I am intested in thrash when it's played well, so that means I get a kick outta METALLICA, LIVING DEATH, IRON ANGEL and a host of others. Well POSSESSED are the heroes of this piece and they certainly can play thrash metal well.

"It was VENOM and EXODUS who first got us into thrash metal. They're the only bands for us. We're really good friends with EXODUS as you know" says POSSESSED guitarist Larry Lalonde.

The quartet, completed by Mike Sus (drums), Mike Torrao (guitar) and Jeff Becerra (bass/vocals) first came to the attention of many people thanks to the band's contribution to "Metal Massacre Volume Six", with the infamous "Swing The Axe". They then landed a contract with New York's Combat Records and also a spot on the MF compiled "Speed Kills" album as a taster for the "Seven Churches" album. The main thing that struck me about the album is that the band actually achieve something musically and it's not just noise, like, say SODOM. The musicianship is a strong point in POSSESSED's favour. "Yeah, I think so too", says Larry, "We just wanted to make a record without just making pure noise and we tried to get the production (by Randy Burns) just how we wanted it."

Can you fulfill the potential shown on the album in a live situation? "Yeah, I think we can, even if we aren't able to use our own equipment we'll still be able to get that sound."

Is there a problem getting gigs? I've been hearing stories of thrash bands being banned from playing in clubs. "No, not really. I haven't really heard that much. Some clubs have banned shows but those are the small clubs that don't usually deal with metal bands and can't take in the number of people metal bands attract."

Are there any plans for POSSESSED to tour in the near future? "Yeah as soon as we can get some dates set up. We'll be just doin' some small tours here and there."

What about Europe? You've obviously heard how well EXODUS were received? "Oh yeah - it looks like we'll be over in Europe - especially Germany, in the summer. We really wanna come over there but it's difficult at the moment because me'n'Jeff are still at school so we're gonna have to wait a while."

I'm sure once POSSESSED do make it over to Europe everyone is gonna go nuts over 'em just like they did when SLAYER and EXODUS came over last year. But does it bother the band that a lot of people who buy the record really take the satanic imagery seriously? "Not really, I don't think they take it seriously at all, they see that it's just part of the show and they all come and have a good time."

Well I hope so but I'm still not convinced, especially after reading some of the penbanger ads in this very magazine. I think '86 will see a serious backlash against bands who sing about Satan, whether for real or just show. The American's are a sensitive nation when it comes to messin' with evil, possibly all to do with their God fearing pilgrim roots. Remember when the comic book capers of KISS first made a name for themselves? They were branded as being Knights in Satan's service and Gene Simmons was accused of actually being the Devil incarnate. Or howabout in the sixties, when John Lennon was misquoted in a magazine when talking about religion and ruined a tour of America for THE BEATLES? And now with the possibility of this P.M.R.C. bill coming into effect we'll have to see what happens in '86.

In the meantime satanic imagery or not POSSESSED plan on furthering their undoubted potential in 1986. "I'm not exactly sure as to when we'll be doing another album," says Larry, "but we should be recording an EP or something in February because we've been working on some new songs recently." Something that should, hopefully see the band seriously threaten the big league 'cos they've got the youth on their side, and what they may lack in experience they more than compensate for in their ability to play excellent heavy metal with the required dosage of enthusiasm that only deserves to see them do well.

As far as the show itself is concerned it's just a "straight ahead show, no bombs or anything", but who knows? Once they develop into an act that merits heavy financial backing then, well, they could have maybe something on the lines of VENOM, the only difference being that people tend to laugh at the tongue-in-cheek element of the Cronos charade (don't get me wrong, I like VENOM, being, what you might call an original fan of theirs), it'll be an entirely different story with POSSESSED. Wait and see.

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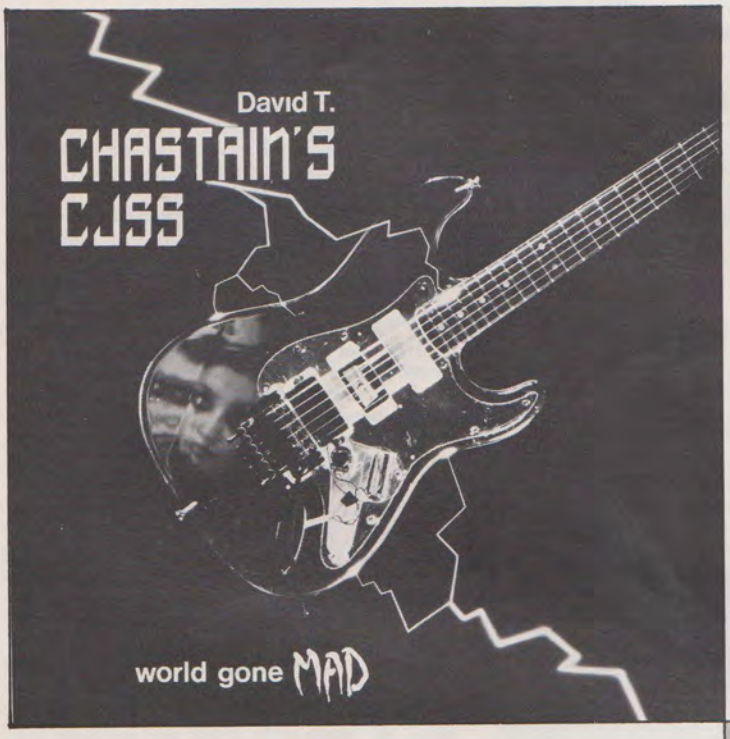
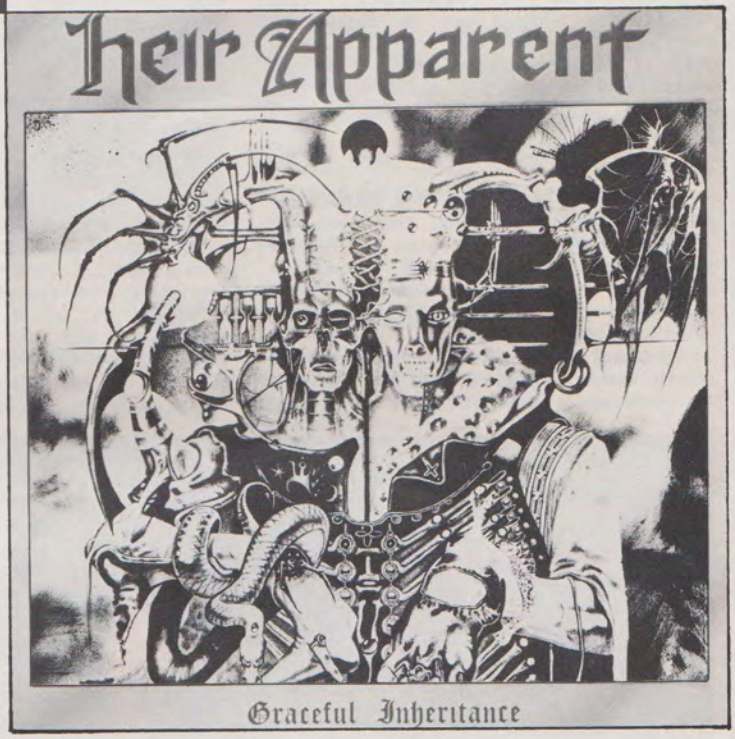


Speed, dexterity, feeling:
the new album from
guitar hero
David T. CHASTAIN
"World Gone Mad" LP

Discover an epic,
innovative and thrilling
musical universe:
HEIR APPARENT
"Graceful Inheritance" LP



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METAL ON VINYL

ALBUM RATINGS

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81- 90 Strongly Recommended
71- 80 Check It Out
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51- 60 Nothing Special
41- 50 Below Average
31- 40 Disappointing
21- 30 Poor
11- 20 Rubbish
0 - 10 Delete

METALLICA
Master Of Puppets
(Music For Nations)

There is no doubt in my mind that METALLICA are the hottest property in metal today. Before 1986 is through they will be one of the biggest if not the biggest true metal bands in the world. Having already produced two of the finest HM LP's ever (both would be in my All Time Top Ten), they entered the hallowed Copenhagen studios in late '85 to record "Master Of Puppets" - the LP which would make or break them as far as fame and fortune was concerned.

Let me say this now and quite clearly "MASTER OF PUPPETS" IS THE BEST METAL ALBUM I'VE EVER HEARD. Have METALLICA wimped out to obtain the commercial success they richly deserve? Well, if having purchased this LP (as you undoubtably all will) you do not agree that it is the HEAVIEST LP ever then you are beyond saving.

A track by track rundown gives us the following:

"BATTERY": If "Fight Fire With Fire" was the thrasher on "Ride The Lightning" then "Battery" is its equivalent on "Master Of Puppets". A Spanish Guitar introduction gives way to a song so incredibly fast, with controlled riffing over Lars Ulrich's relentless beat, the result is like listening to a musical machine gun. This is a definitive thrash track and could well be the song to cross over for those who have never experienced true metal. This song will convert some, but to those who know thrash already, you will be in ecstasy at the energy herein. Kirk Hammett solos with an identity now all of his own; he is an exciting guitarist. Like on many other tracks on this LP Hammett stakes his claim as a guitar hero.

"MASTER OF PUPPETS": The similarity between this song and "Ride The Lightning" (the track) hit me from the word go but the difference is "Master Of Puppets" is bound to become THE METALLICA epic. A truly memorable song with well crafted tempo changes, this has everything including the most powerful lyrics the band has ever penned. Hetfield screams: "Master, Master - Where's The Dreams I've Been After, Master, Master - Promised Only Lies, Laughter, Laughter - All I Hear, A Sea Of Laughter, Laughter, Laughter - Laughing At My Cries."

Better than "Ride The Lightning" by a mile.

"THE THING THAT SHOULD NOT BE": The heaviest song METALLICA have ever written. Reminicent of TROUBLE but so much finer. OZZY and SABBATH would have died to have written a riff this powerful: This song will bring the walls caving in; it truly is like being pulverised by a sledgehammer. A tale of a sea monster awoken to wreck havoc? Or does it mean far more? Answer me Hetfield.

"In Madness You Dwell" - You said it guys. There's mucho talk of insanity herein. The most ominous metal song ever.

"WELCOME HOME (SANITARIUM)": A disguised melodic intro enhanced by tasteful soloing from Kirk Hammett (reminicent of "Fade To Black") unfolds to uncover James Hetfield's tale.

"Sanitarium - leave me be" he horrifically sings(!) This song finds an uptempo riff that will stick in the mind - basic but most effective, whilst Kirk screams in with an intense solo.

The song builds well and although the least instant on offer, will surely grow to classic status.

"DISPOSABLE HEROES": My favourite song on the LP. Back to thrash, but superbly crafted it has everything - this must be a single, it would kill. A tremendous headbanging riff, the song tells the story of those condemned to fight. "Back To The Front - you will do what I say - when I say Back To The Front". The sentiments herein continue the theme on "For Whom The Bells Toll" but the song is different, producing a mixture of all METALLICA's styles - heavy, fast, thrash, the power riff - but somehow, just somehow, one of their most commercial songs.

"LEPER MESIAH": The worst song on the LP - or should I say least brilliant - but is their most adventurous and original. With a mixture of conventional mid-tempo heaviness and well, make your own mind up. Shit why do I say worst, it's still beyond what 99% of HM bands could only dream of producing, it's growing on me already. God thouh, the lyrical idea's a bit sick.

"ORION": An instrumental far beyond that overlong epic on "RTL". Someone write a film for this track, it deserves one. Building from some PURPLEsque beginning (you better believe it!), suddenly an instant riff hits you between the eyes. That underlying METALLICA heaviness is still present, James Hetfield's rhythm guitar just puts it into another league.

Then the track takes an unexpected turn going completely wimpy and tasteful for a short while before returning with a vengeance and even heavier!

"DAMAGE INC.": Beginning with some very eerie sounds - check it out on headphones - "Damage Inc." swiftly heads into thrash territory with another memorable riff. The mid-part of the song reminds me of the track "Ride The Lightning" (fast bit!) and again Hammett is in overdrive. (Hetfield chucks in some abuse just to please us all on this one).

By my reckoning the LP clocks in at just under the hour making it the ultimate value for money. I'll stick my neck on the line - it's the ultimate metal album. It should be in your local store in early March so go hassle your dealer to order it now. If you don't get this LP then it won't take the metal world by storm and we'll all be stuck with the same boring old shit for years to come.

You want something new though don't you? Well, "Master Of Puppets" is as essential to 1986 as LED ZEP or PURPLE or MAIDEN ever were in their heyday. The question is how incredible will these guys now be live? They have three LP's of brilliant songs, they are tight and they have immense energy. Buy the LP, go to the gigs and believe. It is "Master Of Puppets".

DAVE CONSTABLE

Pic Ross Halfin

DESTRUCTOR
Maximum Destruction
(Auburn Records)

95

This album promised to be a killer and it's certainly lived up to my expectations. Playing progressive thrash of the highest order, DESTRUCTOR blitz their way through such intense mayhem as "Take Command", "Destructor", "Pounding Evil" and "Iron Curtain" whilst the title track is a seven minute epic of titanic proportions, submitting the listener to a mixture of out and out thrash and sheer pounding metal.

At times these Cleveland maniacs can be compared with SLAYER, especially on the total blur of "Overdose", but at the same time retain their own identity with imaginative tempo changes and technical brilliance. As the sticker on the album cover says "Sheer Devastation".

BERNARD DOE

VIRGIN STEELE
Noble Savage
(Cobra Records)

80

Now Starr-less and guided by the people who set PILEDRIVER on the road to popularity, VIRGIN STEELE come up with a good attempt at combining raw heavy metal with a touch of classic pomposity. I feel it could've been a whole lot better had they brought in an outside producer, as the record lacks a little punch in the production department. But despite this and a touch of self-indulgence creeping into things in some tracks, it's good to see the group up and at 'em again.

New guitarist Edward Pursino certainly has what it takes to match Steele's undoubted talent and he comes up with some mighty fine playing, in particular on "We Rule The Night", "The Evil In Her Eyes" or "The Angel Of Light" and there's also a new found desire for commercial metal acceptance too. Check out "I'm On Fire" and, especially "Rock Me", for evidence of this.

As I said, it's good to see VIRGIN STEELE back, and I know a lot of us like 'em right? Anyway where else can you hear a voice like David Defeis'?!

DAVE REYNOLDS

PETER BEVERAGE
Grinding Wheel
(Star Song Records)

55

Peter Beverage struts his stuff on the back of the album cover, making Kerrangs! Dante Bonnutto look like he was a member of POISON. Beverage plays some interesting keyboard rock in quite a unique style. Unfortunately a thin production spoils what could have been something special. Still the LP's a worthy purchase for REZ BAND fans as Glenn Kaiser helps with some of the lyrics.

KELV HELLRAZER

MANIA
No Lullabies!!
(Stratagem Records)

70

The title says it all really but MANIA aren't a death band. No, MANIA would very much like to be like RATT or something. Actually this Texas outfit aren't too bad, they've got a nice selection of songs - in particular "Treat Me This Way" and a strong vocalist in Stacey Richards who sounds like the great Lips of ANVIL! As for cover girl Kim Weaver - she can come and cuddle my Flying V any day of the week!! Anyone know her address and phone number?!?

DAVE REYNOLDS

LE MANS
Le Mans
(Columbia Records)

90

Now this is a surprise. After a direction-less debut, the boys have bounced back with an awe inspiring second LP. Vocalist Peter Marrino has the perfect voice for speeding round those dark corners to. The clever use of a Sax in "Don't Wanna Work" fits it to a 'T'. I normally hate a Sax in A.O.R./HM but it works well on this cut. The semi-balladic "Love Is A Waste Of Time" is nothing short of a killer, but this is just the icing on the cake. Yep, the best is saved for the end; "Sex, Guitars And Rock'n'Roll" a powerful cut of intense A.O.R./Metal that highlight's Derek Frigo's masterbatory guitar heroics.

Credit must go to Mike Varney whose production is out of this world. Crank it up, blast it out, do whatever you need to, to make this LP big news 'cos LE MANS are your new heroes of rock'n'roll. Now where's that interview Mike?

KELV HELLRAZER

MANTUS Pic Wayne Youngman

VENOM
Official Bootleg
(American Phonograph)

51

VENOM to me are now dead - with only a few nails to go in the coffin. Gone are the glory days of "Black Metal" etc and all we are left with are re-hashes, crappy mongolian assaults etc and a memory. This Official Bootleg (a bit contridictory) comes from their 1984 London gig. The bass playing(!) is a mess and totally random - I remember the gig being better than this. For collectors only.

DAVE CONSTABLE

LAAZ ROCKIT
No Strangers To Danger
(Target/Steamhammer)

56

The general opinion that's emanating from Europe right now is that this new record from LAAZ ROCKIT, just doesn't live up to the promise of the debut. Actually I tend to agree, whilst there are some pretty good moments the choice of material this time round doesn't really send me into a state of delirium. Mostly LAAZ ROCKIT remind me a good deal of many an above average UK act through the grooves of "Dreams Die Hard", "Town To Town", Off The Deep End" and "Wrecking Machine". Good but not quite up to LAAZ's standards.

DAVE REYNOLDS

STAINLESS STEEL
In Your Back
(Bonebreaker)

24

CHAINSAW
Hell's Burnin' Up
(Bonebreaker)

23

STAINLESS STEEL really do well ripping off IRON MAIDEN and JUDAS PRIEST. A pity really 'cos they sound pretty competent musically, although vocalist Ralf Scholz is rather weak and comes across, to me anyway, as a second-rate Didier Izard (ex-H.BOMB). There are a couple of OK tracks viz, "Angel Of Death" and "Heavy Metal Bomber". The rest is just cliched muppet stuff that's of no use to anyone.

CHAINSAW must have got themselves THE worst album cover EVER! This is the kinda stuff that gives HM a bad name.

Actually the record as a whole is one, big, non-event totally. The drummer (Arndt Kremer) is really, really good though he plays his heart out to no avail, he's caged in behind a ham fisted guitar duo and a singer of dubious talent.

Whilst some tracks, in particular the quite good "Midnight Hunter", show signs of CHAINSAW at least showing they have the ideas, but not the ability to translate them properly onto vinyl, others possess just basic metal rhythms - often repetitive at that - and no originality at all. At best I'd advise you to ignore these and spend your money on the new LIVING DEATH LP. Now THAT is GOOD!

DAVE REYNOLDS

SMILE
Smile
(MCA/Curb)

47

Average effort by L.A. band SMILE, who sound slightly like Canadian rockers FIST, partially due to the fact that vocalist Scott Waller sounds like Ron Clenier. There are tinges of MAX WEBSTER on occasions but elsewhere there is little to really rave about. One for the people who collect everything A.O.R. wise.

KELV HELLRAZER

FLAMES
Made In Hell
(Famous Music)

72

From the land of Shades favourite customer Nicos Carlos comes thrash metal Greek style. I'd love to be able to delete this as rubbish but in all honesty I can't. This is a good effort with some good material most of which lies in VENOM territory; but of course it's better produced. Not complete death as they're are some lighter moments but these give some variation to the LP - something many thrash LP's sorely miss. Anyway well worth having - not just for obscurity value, but to check out what's happening in the most unlikely places!!

DAVE CONSTABLE

EXCITER
Unveiling The Wicked
(Music For Nations)

75

With the exception of the excellent "Live Fast, Die Young" - out and out speed metal - EXCITER have taken a more pedestrian approach with their fourth album. That's not to say that the pounding metal of "Breakdown The Walls", "Waiting In The Dark" or "Mission Destroy" (touches of ACCEPT here) are that much less leathal than past offerings; it's just that "Unveiling The Wicked" is probably not what EXCITER fans expected.

BERNARD DOE

VICIOUS RUMOURS
Soldiers Of The Night
(Shrapnel/Roadrunner)

79

Now this taste of Heavy Metal Assault gets the collective thumbs up round here - even Kelv likes it. Fronted these days by ex-HAWAII vocalist Gary St.Pierre, VICIOUS RUMORS throw up a variety of technicolour metal stormers, including the skull-splitting "Let's Blitz The World", "Blistering Wind" and "In Fire". Not for wimps, as EZY MEAT (who?) would say. Whilst the intro "Premonition" sounds a little weird paired next to the thrashin' "Ride(Into The Sun)" which sounds like Dickinson era SAMSON on speed, the rest of V.R.'s package will satisfy anybody into classy, very heavy, no compromise metal.

DAVE REYNOLDS

TERRAPLANE
Black And White
(Epic)

15

With all the raving there's been about this band I expected TERRAPLANE to be the saviours of British Rock or something. Well on this showing they're anything but that.

"I Can't Live Without Your Love", "I Survive" and "I'm The One" are nothing more than commercial pop music and the sort of garbage that pollutes the Top 40 charts week in and week out.

OK if thye're gonna play pop and have hit singles then TERRAPLANE are gonna be successful. But for a HM/HR fan they're crap.

BERNARD DOE

LYNX
Caught In The Trap
(Mill Records)

81

Musically LYNX (from Sweden I presume) have come up with a collection of songs that owe much to UFO in their heyday. Some exceptional melodies and riffs with a good use of keyboards. A very good LP.

DAVE CONSTABLE

MACE
Process Of Elimination
(Restless Records)

41

A sort of thrash/punk crossover but not successful in the S.O.D. way. This is too trashy to appeal to most metal fans. Where D.R.I. and the like win is with the tight playing at high speeds. MACE sound a bit of a mess and the vocals are just random screaming at times. Buy only if it's cheap.

DAVE CONSTABLE

SWEET SAVAGE
Sweet Savage
(Savage Tunes Ltd)

88

These SAVAGE's have a sound that's one hundred percent L.A., but the band are based in Houston, Texas. Joey C. Jones sounds like Vince Neil without an Aphex Aural Exciter. Opening cut "On The Rocks" has CRUE written all over it. Whilst "Do Ya" is RATT revisited down to the Martini guitar sound. What the hell is a cover version of "Fox On The Run" doing on a five tracker? Surely the guys have got lots of hot originals.

"Head Over Heels" blasts open side two in fine Kozak style with added pomp like keyboard intro's and don't I just love it - Power glam all the way. "Break Away" is a fine closer; starting mellow and ending everso powerful. Honestly this is possibly the best slab of vinyl around at the moment, despite my criticisms. A solution to the CRUE/RATT problem? I'll leave that up to you.

KELV HELLRAZER

WINTERS REIGN
The Mini Album
(Q Records)

88

Not a mini album as such - just two girls in mini skirts on the cover. But an independant release that puts many majors to shame (i.e. TERRAPLANE). WINTERS REIGN play commercial rock in the US vein from the South Of Ireland. Excellent production and some great guitar are the stand out points which combined with five songs such as "Save It", "Karen" and "I'm Getting Out" make this one of my faves of the moment. I recommend this LP most highly to anyone who likes lighter metal and/or superb guitar work.

DAVE CONSTABLE

RAVEN
The Pack Is Back
(Atlantic)

75

Weird but quite wonderful, RAVEN have completely changed their musical approach and after hearing this LP you'll find it hard to believe that these guys have toured with METALLICA.

"Stay Hard" their last LP was a wimp out and very disappointing but "The Pack Is Back" shows RAVEN mixing traditional metal with various styles and techniques more commonley associated with modern pop music. I mean when you expect rhythm guitar you get horns to fill out the sound, and some of the songs are so totally obscure most metal fans will completely delete on first hearing. But hear this LP four or five times however and I'll think you'll be pleasantly surprised. As for commercial success - no chance, shame really.

DAVE CONSTABLE

DER KAISER
La Griffe De L'Empire
(Devils Records)

85

So my path crosses with DER KAISER again. I really slagged 'em off in Demolition sometime ago and their debut album was complete garbage. Now the second DER KAISER album has been passed my way. I am shocked! Can this be the same band? Why? It's bloody good, that's why! It's obviously the change in vocalists that's the root cause of it. In comes Claude and my interest in the band is increased 100%. The guy is a good singer - unlike the former vocalist - and the songs are improved beyond belief.

Most people describe DER KAISER as the French answer to IRON MAIDEN and the album shows why, full of bass driven heavy metal cuts with inter changing guitar runs and fine drumming. All the tracks have something going for them. Best tracks? Try "La Proie Du Desir", "L'Arene" (probably the album's fastest track) and "Obsession". - Good stuff and an English version is due shortly.

DAVE REYNOLDS

TARZEN
Tarzen
(Valentino Records)

55

TARZEN feature ex-HEAVY METAL KIDS/UFO keyboardist Danny Peyronnel and former GRAND PRIX bassist Ralph Hood.

The band have an obvious eye on the US market with their brand of commercial heavy rock. Now whilst I can appreciate the more up-tempo rockers viz "Running With The Wrong Guys", "Tarzen" and promising opener "Taboo"; I'm afraid the plodding AC/DC-QUIET RIOT style of songs like "Pack Rules" and "Shout That Name" do nothing for me at all. However even these tracks are inspiring compared with the albums closer "Tribal Man" which sounds like THOR meets ADAM ANT aargh, truly terrible.

I've no doubt there's a market for TARZEN somewhere and I'm sure AC/DC fans will find a little to rave about but I'm afraid they're not for me.

BERNARD DOE

DAVID T. CHASTAIN'S CJSS
World Gone Mad
(Black Dragon Records)

85

If like me, you think Yngwie Malmsteen is a superb guitarist but couldn't write a decent song to save his life, then check out this album and hear how it should be done.

CJSS guitarist and mainman David T. Chastain is similar in style to Yngwie and just as talented, but has that added ability to pen worthy songs that are not based around self indulgent guitar solos.

Melodical progressive metal is probably the best way to describe the CJSS style of music with the best cuts being the title track, "Welcome To Damnation" and the hard hitting "The Gates Of Eternity". OK I could have done without a cover of ZEPPLIN's "Communication Breakdown" and the mundane "Destiny" is none too clever, but "World Gone Mad" is still a worthy investment.

BERNARD DOE

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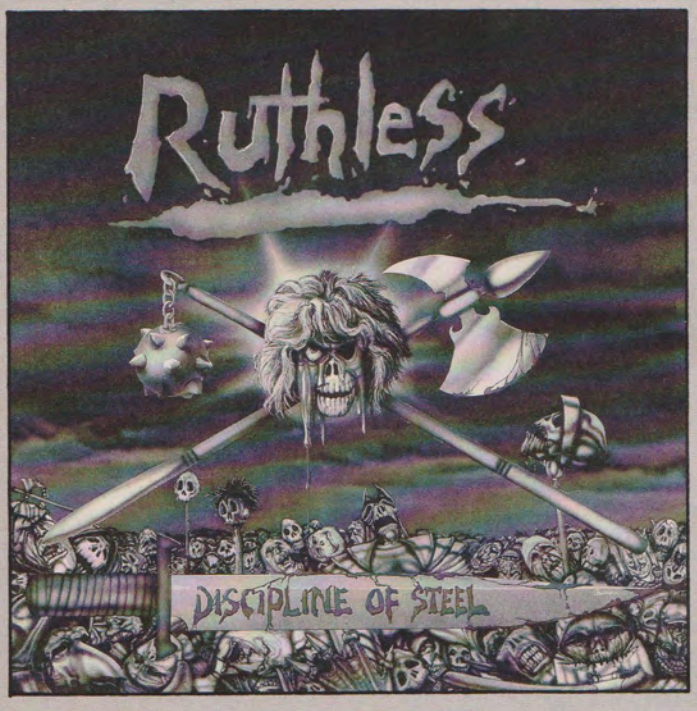

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VARIOUS ARTISTS
California's Best Metal (New Renaissance)

I could rave on for forty pages on why RUBY SLIPPERS are so brilliant (delete - Ed). "Mon Cherie" the SLIPPERS contributions is a glam masterwork. The fact that this band never got signed makes me puke. Since this compilation was released vocalist Michael Arden has left the band and bassist D.J. is in turmoil at the moment. That leaves only Nigel'God'Itson and Keith Varady.

Apart from the SLIPPERS this compilation offers a blistering cut from SAVAGE GRACE in "Betrayer". SYREN's "Danger" is excellent; a sort of LEE AARON/BLACKLACE style number. Where have this band been hiding?

V.V.S.I. and NO SUGAR I have already raved about in our Demo-lition section and both contributions are hot party rock'n'roll. HELLION's offering is a bit disappointing and ASSASSIN are of course a Reynolds rave. DIVINE RITES contribution shows potential but KNIGHTMARE II, NIGHTSTALKER and PALACE OF OBLIVION should give up now. A recommended compilation though and possibly the best one around at the moment.

KELV HELLRAZER

HARDKNOX
Mark Of The Rocker (Lifer Records)

More glamsters this time from Oak Ridge Tennessee. What you get is seven tracks bristling with energy; more akin with BLACK'N'BLUE cira demo period than anything else. Gene Hadley has an impressive vocal range to match Daniel Lusk's pumping rhythms. Sure HARDKNOX ain't doing nothing original; but then who is? Recommended tracks are "Get Up", "Getaway" and "Combat Alley".

KELV HELLRAZER

CHARIOT
Burning Ambition (Shades)

There's not a lot of bands worth a second glance on the UK metal scene today, most groups of note hail form the other side of the Atlantic (with a few exceptions from Germany). One band I've had my eye on though from the good ole home of metal is CHARIOT.

Many of you will remember their debut LP on the Shades label which although was full of top notch songs suffered a bit on the production side.

No such problems this time round though, with Steve James at the production controls the band sound tighter then ever with a fresh sound combining energy, enthusiasm and above all some classic material.

A combination of memorable riffs and melody give CHARIOT that edge over the competition around today. If you are truly a metal fan then you cannot fail to be moved by such anthemic rockers as "Screams The Night", "Meet My Match" and "Heartless" to name just three. There are touches of Y&T, LIZZY and AC/DC in there somewhere but overall the sound is original and definately English.

There's an ace in the pack with a killer ballad in "So Blind". Not bland by any means, this track shows how emotion can be transmitted through the power of rock, in the same way Y&T did with "I Believe In You".

Overall I can't find many faults with "Burning Ambition", the other six tracks being of a high standard making the LP an essential purchase of '86.

Get off your arses and grab a copy now - these guys are going to be big news, don't miss the boat.

DAVE CONSTABLE

SNIPER
Quick And Dead (Megaton Records)

I loved SNIPER's live debut album "Open The Attack", but I'm afraid "Quick And Dead" is totally disappointing and at times, such as on the ballad "Dreamy Lady" and the boppy "Driving You Crazy Now", is pure crap.

Two years ago I was tipping SNIPER to become one of Japan's finest exports but on this showing I'm afraid they've completely blown it.

BERNARD DOE

WILDCAT
Love Attack (Roadrunner)

This band features ex-MAGGIES MADNESS members if I understand things correctly. Well they were far from hot and WILDCAT is more of the same with a horrendous album cover that the P.M.R.C. would have kittens over! The production's good but most of the time WILDCAT just sound like a very poor SCORPIONS piss-take. A complete waste of good vinyl if you ask me.

DAVE REYNOLDS

BRAINFEVER
Face To Face (Becillus Records)

These guys produced an excellent debut LP on Mausoleum Records last year and this offering is in the same style, but I'm not sure the material is quite as good. It's pretty uptempo stuff but somewhat samey. Still the productions good and it's definately worth buying.

DAVE CONSTABLE

REZ
Between Heaven'N'Hell (Sparrow)

The definitive christian metal band are back with yet another album. They've long since dropped "THE RESURRECTION BAND" title and now simply operate under the banner of REZ. These Chicago people have been around a lot longer than STRYPER and have always put out excellent product.

"Between..." is, believe it or not, their eighth album and a great deal heavier than '84's more modern sounding "Hostage". Guitarist Glenn Kaiser takes control of most lead vocals, whilst his wife Wendy contributes to three songs. Wendy sounds not unlike a cross of MOTHERS FINEST's Baby Jean and BLACKLACE's Maryann Scandiffio. AC/DC comparisons abound on "Love Comes Down", but elsewhere REZ pull out the stops with excellent cuts with a message, the best of which are "Talk To Me", "2000", "Zuid Afrikan", "Thinking Of You" and "Shadows". Check this one out please.

DAVE REYNOLDS

RAILWAY
Railway Two (Roadrunner)

Despite what Dave Constable thought of the debut RAILWAY album (see review in MF9), I really liked it, especially the first two tracks. However I had expected RAILWAY to progress, er, further up the line, as it were. With "Railway Two" the band appears to have run out of ideas already.

The material on offer here is far from encouraging, despite (again) a good opening track in "Lick It Stick It". If you liked the band's first album then you just might be able to put up with this and it is, after all, well produced but, well, all I can say is third time lucky or miss the train.

DAVE REYNOLDS

WHIPLASH
Power And Pain (Roadrunner)

Just when you thought thrash had had its day and the world would return to sanity, WHIPLASH steam in with death of the highest order.

Tinges of EXODUS, VOI VOD, METALLICA and a pinch of SLAYER, combine to form an LP of speed ecstasy. Thrash and Thrash again - there's no let up in the WHIPLASH attack. Tracks such as "Stage Dive" and "War Monger" speed along at 100mph whilst an epic in "Power Thrashing Death" does not relent; it just happens to be longer and more complicated.

This New Jersey noise machine are definately prime thrashing contenders of the month. Minor reservations in the production department but when it's this fast and heavy it's going to sound a blur to most anyway. I've even given it extra marks for song titles such as "Spit On Your Grave" and "Nailed To The Cross".

Buy this or join Hellrazer's fan club!

DAVE CONSTABLE

VIRGINIA WOLF
Virginia Wolf (Atlantic Records)

Whatever happened to SHY? Such potential and now they have just disappeared. See VIRGINIA WOLF have that same potential; a nice clean American rock sound with vocals that ALASKA's Bob Hawthorn would be proud of. But the main point is, does anyone care about English bands playing American rock music? Look what happened to AIRACE and LIONHEART. Apart from all this VIRGINIA WOLF's debut is a killer; check out anthems like "Goodbye Don't Mean Forever" and "Don't Run Away"; both revamped since the demo days. This will be one of my favourite albums of '86. AOR for the masses.

KELV HELLRAZER

TROJAN
Chasing The Storm (Roadrunner Records)

This is probably one of the heaviest new British bands I've heard in a long while. TROJAN are nothing less than pure metal, thrashing and pounding their way through such mayhemic riffers as "Hot'n'Ready", "Hypnotized", "Chasing The Storm" and "Aggressor". Despite the poor production TROJAN prove that not all of the new British bands are trying to be like the next DEF LEPPARD. Recommended.

BERNARD DOE

KICK AXE
Welcome To The Club (Pasha)

I never really rated KICK AXE's debut but the band have definately mellowed out. Ten seconds into the title song and the change is extremely evident. "Feels Good Don't Stop" reminds me of ZEP with its chugging riff and big drum sound. "Comin' After You" and "Never Let Go" are side ones highest moments. "Hellraisers" opens side two in fine heavy style and with a brilliant title like that how could it fail?

"Too Loud...Too Old" is impressive with its quirky style of rock'n'roll. "With A Little Help From My Friends" is hardly an apt number to cover but it's aided by guest appearances from: Rick Emmett, Lee Aaron, Cindy Valent, Alfie Zappacosta and CONEY HATCH's Andy Curran. A definative change from their debut; perhaps a change that will prove fatal so early on in their recording career.

KELV HELLRAZER

BLACK SHEEP
Trouble In The Streets
(Enigma Records)

91

BLACK SHEEP contains the best guitarist I've heard since Joshua Perahia. His name is Wille Basse I think? Although the sleeve notes don't really give much away. Eddie Van Halen would quiver in his shoes if he heard guys like this. Anyway the album reeks of bands like HOLLAND and HANNOVER FIST. And is most definately an essential purchase.

KELV HELLRAZER

PAGANINI
Weapon Of Love
(Phonogram Germany)

89

Ex-VIVA men Mark Paganini (vocals) and Ralph Murthy (guitar) speed back into the world of metal via this brilliant German release. Paganini can sing a good deal better than he could when he was with VIVA and the band he's got together certainly deliver the goods and they look well posey too!

The band have a fine selection of metal cuts, none more so than "Guardian Angels" that opens the record. A real killer, one of the finest headbanger's I've heard for ages with some terrific hooks.

The atmospheric "Berlin By Night" and the racey "Don't Let Me Down" also impress with some meaty rhythm and superb production from Vic Vergat (who also wrote three of the tracks - the best of which is the album's title track). The nine track package ends, as it began on a hot note with "You Got Me Crazy". Further proof that this time round Mark Paganini can do no wrong!

DAVE REYNOLDS

KLAXON
Klaxon
(Polygram)

85

This band had a totally useless LP out a couple of years back but they've come back from the dead with the addition of a stunning lead singer Nina Scott (exLAWLESSNESS). Their new LP is hot. Real good hard rock with superb songs and a wonderful singer. At times a bit wimpy and there's the occasional sax break but overall one of the best French releases ever.

DAVE CONSTABLE

QWEST
Dream Zone
(Quality Records)

77

This is Canada's QWEST second effort; the first was "Tampico Gold" which was ruined by an awful production. "Dream Zone" sees an improvement almost one hundred percent in songwriting as well. Songs like "We Need Love" and "Your Not So Hot" are AOR/rockers of the finest order.

At times QWEST remind me of a wimpier version of ICON. But it could still prove a worthy purchase.

KELV HELLRAZER

DECRY
Japanese
(Toxic Shock)

54

An interesting punky metal band in the vogue of HANOI ROCKS,OVERLORD and, more tellingly AEROSMITH. From L.A., DECRY open with "Here To Stay" which actually reminds me of New Jersey's excellent SKULLS. "Stranger" begins with a riff that instantly reminds you of RATT but from there on things go down hill until side two and the appealing "Dead End Zone". Very much an acquired taste.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HATRIK
The Beast
(Roadrunner)

42

Pretty Neanderthal thrash'n'bash glamour rock from this Chicago band. John McPherson tries to ape ATTACKER's Bob Mitchell in the vocal stakes at times, whilst elsewhere he sounds like RAVEN's John Gallagher.

There are a couple of interesting tracks, especially "Still Of The Night" - that's good, but overall there's nothing to really shout about. Really HATRIK's only saving grace is the outrageous guitar antics of Eric Baumann.

DAVE REYNOLDS

STEFFANIE
Hideaway
(WEA)

80

Believe it or not this little blonde is Japanese and eons ahead of her homegrown competiton simply because she sings in fluent English, and has a European deal with WEA International for her debut release, which is surely one of 1985's best female metal albums. Steffanie sounds not a million miles away from Sally Kay (BACK SEAT SALLY) vocally but the songs are much more beefed up in the LEE AARON mould meeting BON JOVi head on in the melody department. Stand out cut just has to be the title track, the backing band of mainly Japanese musicians playing up a storm. Also of note are "Rock The Planet", "Run For Your Love" and "Get Out Of My Heart".

DAVE REYNOLDS

DAVID LA DUKE'S SINBAD
David La Duke's Sinbad
(Advance Tape LP)

44

After years of playing Kentucky and surrounding states in club-land (including support slots with the sadly defunct ROADMASTER in 1981 would ya believe) David La Duke has a record out on Azra. A pretty diverse record it is too, from the quirky rock'n'roll opener "Rock'n'Roll Railroad" to more appealing material in "Rock The Night Away" it runs the whole gamut. Certainly an obscure item for collectors like me but not, I fear, for the general metal buying public. Still, good luck to the man.

DAVE REYNOLDS

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Pacific Metal Project
(C.O.M.A. Records)

81

A collection of solid gold Seattle metal that proves rock ain't dead in the Northwest even though not a great deal has been heard recently. This record highlights Black Dragon's new signings HEIR APPARENT and D.C.LACROIX (previously called D.C.LACROY when they had an indie mini-LP out - I know these things!) but, for me it's MYTH and PHAZE who are the stars of this show.

MYTH are the outfit that once spawned Geoff Tate. "Let Me Hear The Thunder" is awesome. More please! PHAZE sport ex-LIPSTICK guitarist Brock Grave and superb singer Robert Thomas in their ranks. They too are brilliant. Also on the LP is MISTRUST (ex-CULPRIT singer Jeff L'Heureux's new band), MANCHILD, RANSOM, XINR, ARSON and LOOK OUT. All bands that I feel sure you'll be hearing more of in these pages. A great compilation but please gimme more MYTH and PHAZE!!

DAVE REYNOLDS

CRYER
Cryer
(Strut'n'Roll Records)

10

Sorry guys, this is badly produced and badly played. Bad is the appropriate word in this case and without being impolite I'd think about becoming full-time business men guys. Crud or what?

KELV HELLRAZER

PANDEMONIUM
Hole In The Sky
(Metal Blade/Roadrunner)

55

Will PANDEMONIUM ever be able to break out of the Second Division of L.A. metal bands? The group's second album still doesn't hold the promotion winning points. The fault lies not within the musicianship but rather with the songwriting, for PANDEMONIUM still don't possess songs good enough. One or two sound promising; "Don't Touch That Dial" and "Imprisoned By The Snow" but the rest just plod along on the road to nowhere. "Eye Of The Storm" sound like RAIL on a bad day f'instance. There is something in their favour, a good production; but as you and I know a great album also needs good songs. Maybe, to quote STARZ, the third time will be the charm.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HEIR APPARENT

HEIR APPARENT
Graceful Inheritance
(Black Dragon Records)

78

"HEIR APPARENT stands for CLASS METAL" says the biography and that's exactly what you get from this talented band from Seattle.

QUEENSRYCHE are an obvious comparison - listen especially to "Another Candle" and "Tear Down The Walls" to see what I mean - and there are also touches of early RUSH too, as can be heard on "Running From The Thunder" and "Dragon's Lair"; a heavy technical rocker and for me the albums best track.

HEIR APPARENT do loose their way a little on side two - "Hands Of Destiny", "Keeper Of The Reign" and "Masters Of Invasion" not quite coming up to scratch - but "Graceful Inheritance" is still a fine debut and I'm sure we're gonna be hearing a lot more of this band in the future.

BERNARD DOE

PKM
Rock Erotica
(Blue Collar Records)

80

This one winged its way from the States out of the blue to me one morning. PKM are a trio from North Carolina and comprise no less than two ex-NANTUCKET members within the line-up. It just had to be good - and it is!

Pee Wee Watson (bass, vocals) and Kenny Soule (drums, vocals) are the NANTUCKET boyz and they're joined by Michael Gardner on guitar, vocals; hence the band name - PKM. The record contains some excellent hard rock tunes, beginning with the raunchy "Teenage Sex Machine" and "I Can't Stop" which has a kinda ROLLING STONES feel to it (I can just imagine Jagger singing it for some strange reason!). "Play It Cool" clones HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS on one of their heavier moments - even down to the vocals. Uncanny. Then there's a surprise rendition of "Eleanor Rigby", but the way PKM cover the song it sounds like one of their own compositions.

Side two contains four more goodies. "Hot Town Tonight" and "Long Night" are two good time rockin' songs. "Gimme A Call" sounds like Marc Storace doing a SCANDAL song and "It Don't Take Much" mirrors "I Can't Stop". Recommended if you want something a little off the wall.

DAVE REYNOLDS

STRANGEWAYS
Strangeways
(WEA)

92

STRANGEWAYS play heavy A.O.R. with lots of class and good musicianship. They look very similar to TREAT and SPELLBOUND, but are better than both bands put together. In places they remind me of HUGHES/THRALL. Recommended cuts are: "Close To The Edge", "Heartbreak Zone" and "Powerplay". Recorded in SWITZERLAND and mixed in London, although as far as the sleeve notes go the band seem to be Canadian. Anyway a definative essential purchase.

KELV HELLRAZER

MASS
New Birth
(RCA)

85

Have the German band secured an American deal? You gotta be kidding! This band are a completely different entity i.e. they're American and kick serious ass. Whilst the alleged 'hit' single is a pathetic ballad that sounds very dated ("Do You Love Me") the other stuff is highly addictive. Opener "Too Far Gone" reminded me a great deal of AMERICADE which means MASS are influenced by VAN HALEN (check out the back cover for further proof) and I loved "Time", "New Birth" and "Watch Her Walk". A good one this.

DAVE REYNOLDS

PROPHACY
Rock'N'Roll Nightmare
(Cobalt Recordz)

55

Don't let the cover fool you, this band are not a death metal band. PROPHACY are another of the plod-along variety. They have a couple of good tracks, especially the album's opener "Thank-You Ladies"; and the production is very good for what's essentially a self-financed project. On the negative side they can't make up their mind about their image (what's all the satanic crap inside the gatefold sleeve?) and they need to get stuck into the eighties and not sound like a seventies memorial band, it's not a bad debut record but their North-West compatriots are light years ahead in sound and style.

DAVE REYNOLDS

RICK CUA
You're My Road
(Sparrow Records)

72

Rick in case you didn't know used to be a member of the OUTLAWS and this apparently is his third solo LP. Quite a cracker it is as well. Much in the style of Michael Bolton; songs like "Don't Try Suicide" and the title cut are melodic poetry. Add to this some religious influences and you have something very interesting.

KELV HELLRAZER

KING DIAMOND

KING DIAMOND
Fatal Portrait
(Roadrunner)

86

The man is 'back in stock'. Mr. Satanic himself returns and with an LP every bit as good as anything MERCYFUL FATE could muster up. Ignore the derranged ramblings of John Waite wimp/freak Hojo from Kerrudd, this band is a force to be reckoned with. "Fatal Portrait" is more contrived than anything King D. has attemped before, his voice is as strong as ever but what we get is some complex metal which although is instantly appealing with some strong basic riffs (most notably on tracks like "Charon" - the b side to K.D.'s amazing Christmas single), the album also grows with every listen with hidden solos appearing everywhere.

It's wrong to pick out individual tracks because there are none of less than top-notch quality. So get "Fatal Portrait" as it's a totally intense album.

DAVE CONSTABLE

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Satans Revenge
(New Renaissance)

51

Variable quality compilation. Standouts are ARTILLERY "Deeds Of Darkness", NME "Of Hell" and the two DESECRATION tracks. The rest if pretty sub-standard demonic stuff. Good idea - shame about most of the bands.

DAVE CONSTABLE

DIRTY LOOKS
Dirty Looks
(Axe Killer)

72

DIRTY LOOKS play powerful heavy rock with strong riffs and catchy choruses. But whilst they succeed with anthemic gems such as "You Can't Take Me", "She's A Rocker", "Get Off" and "On Your Back", they occasionally drift into AC/DC territory sounding very pedestrian and below average like on "Get Ready" and "I Love You". Still a good debut and recommended for those of you who like it heavy but kept simple.

BERNARD DOE

JACK STARR
Rock Is The American Way
(Passport/Axe Killer)

75

Dismissing the current metal scene in the States as "punk", Jack takes the listener on a trip of the hard rock realm with eight slices of NY bred mayhem. Only two tracks fail to ignite me, these being "Rock Is The American Way" that strives to be anthemic but just comes across as far from satisfactory. The other cut is the fairly lightweight "Live Fast, Rock Hard" which should've had a more beefed up mix.

The funny thing about this record is that it sounds so much like a British band playing American influenced hard rock and being able to pull if off. Vocalist Frank Vestry proves to be a pretty good find, making his mark on a 'debut' which should see the band gain a good deal of acclaim.

DAVE REYNOLDS

TALON
Never Look Back
(Steamhammer)

45

Buy if you like Germanic sub-ACCEPT rock. Nothing special but harmless I suppose - does that justify its existence though.

DAVE CONSTABLE

HYTS
Looking From The Outside
(Gold Mountain)

82

HYTS have come of age, their first LP didn't exactly knock me through the ceiling, but on this outing the boys have got their act together to produce some fine heavy AOR. Check out cuts like "American Way" and "Looking From The Outside" which represent essential listening. I recommend this LP highly for those of you with finer tastes.

KELV HELLRAZER

DUNGEON
Fortress Of Rock
(Medieval Records)

12

DUNGEON are in the CRYER league; no good songs, bad production, a bad LP sleeve and no musical identity. Still at least Buddy Hughes can sing. I'll give DUNGEON the benefit of not being as bad as CRYER.

KELV HELLRAZER

BLITZKRIEG
Ready For Action
(Greenworld/Roadrunner)

45

Produced, arranged, co-written and Lord knows what else by Ron Keel, "Ready For Action" proves that the cloning of America's HM bands has begun. Take a look at the singer in this here L.A. outfit. Who does Don Ross (any relation to Brian?) look like to you? More to the point who do you think he sounds like? You've got it! Ron Keel!

However, whilst Ross may have benefitted from working with his hero this doesn't stop him from being a pretty piss poor imitation of Ronnie boy, his vocals not helping the rather heavy handed delivery of the rest of the band. To be fair Keel's production doesn't exactly enhance what musical ability BLITZKRIEG do possess, so they end up being, well, nothing special.

It's the twin guitarists that most impress from this otherwise uninspired offering (I mean, come on, the name's hardly original is it?) with the packed axes of Eric Von Theumer and Jeff Johnson cutting through on the two better tracks, "Ready For Action" and "First Strike". Ultimately the package is pretty depressing, devoid of any real originality and lacking in substance.

DAVE REYNOLDS

MASTER OF PUPPETS

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OUT NOW ON MUSIC FOR NATIONS

SPELLBOUND
Rockin' Reckless (Sonet)

74

Marginally better and more consistant than their debut which was raved about so heavilly in Kerrapp! Still in the LEPPARD/RATT mould, the songs are slightly heavier this time around with the title song, "Streetprowler" and "Love On The Run" standing out.

I prefer TREAT and think they've more chance of success but SPELLBOUND are Scandinavia's second best hope for US superstardom.

DAVE CONSTABLE

THE INNOCENT
Livin' In The Street (Red Label Records)

88

Now this is the stuff; an obscure gem. THE INNOCENT play no nonsense r'n'r; and would you expect anything less from a band that features ex-members of BREATHLESS and DONNY IRIS? More up-tempo than JOE LAMONT and possibly my favourite LP at the moment. Memorable songs with catchy hooklines is where THE INNOCENT prove themselves. Alan Greene's melodic guitars are possibly the most striking feature of this band. Another buy or die band I'm afraid. I'll stick my neck out with this band and put them in the PROPHET/EVEREST league.

KELV HELLRAZER

BILLY THE KID
Sworn To Fun (MCA/Camel)

80

BILLY THE KID are a four-piece guitar orientated act hailing from Georgia. Billy Murray is a pretty good axe grinder and the rest of the band are pretty good at what they do too. There's Stephen Fredrick (vocals) and Jeff Velvet (bass) - both names that seem vaguely familiar - and Randy Delay on drums. I certainly got my teeth into some catchy'n'heavy stuff in the form of "Rock You Up", "Fear No Evil", "Go For Your Guns" and "Heart Of Steel". Anybody who likes US hard rock in the DOKKEN/FIERCE HEART/STONE FURY mould will like this one I can assure ya!

DAVE REYNOLDS

CANDY
Whatever Happened To Fun (Mercury)

31

Now this is a band that looked promising, but unfortunately it was not to be. This is far too bland for my liking reminding me of PHANTOM, ROCKER and SLICK with a melodic edge. FM Records, Dave "Eyeliner" Roberts told me to watch out for this one and sure it's well produced etc, but I find it very hard to show any enthusiasm for this debut. Maybe next time.

KELV HELLRAZER

JOE LAMONT
Secrets You Keep (Private I Records)

80

Apparently Joe Lamont is an ex-member of STEEPLECHASE and SHELTER, but I would have to speak to Joe to confirm that. Anyway Joe's come up with a highly respectable A.O.R. effort here. Check out especially the title cut and "No Explanation". Joe would be big news in the UK by now if he hadn't been ignored by a certain publication. Anyway "Secrets You Keep" totally deletes the likes of ALDO NOVA who is constantly raved about while Joe has yet to have a name check in blighty. An interesting debut. KELV HELLRAZER

ROSY VISTA
You Better Believe It! (Noise Mini-LP)

60

Female German rockers with a strong US commercial HR sound. But whilst the opening track, "Tables Are Turned", shows a lot of potential the remaining numbers are all very average with little to suggest that ROSY VISTA are capable of competing with their superior American counterparts. Still given enough hype they may just cause a minor buzz.

BERNARD DOE

JON BUTCHER AXIS
Along The Axis (Capitol)

52

This is Jon Butcher's third effort and it looks as if it is his best. Jon specializes in funk influenced rock that's pleasant and inoffensive. Whether Jon will ever make it out of the 'cut out' bins is another story.

Jon's voice is so similar to Michael Bolton it's unbelievable. Check out "Stop" for some heavy duty action. "Sounds Of Your Voice" is a bit mushy. Still another one for those who must collect everything A.O.R. wise.

KELV HELLRAZER

FAR CORPORATION
Division One (Arista)

6

Relegated to Division 86 methinks. Sort of disco come rock come total crap. As for "Stairway To Heaven" - pass me the sick bag.

DAVE CONSTABLE

BLACK SABBATH
Seventh Star (Vertigo)

80

No so much BLACK SABBATH as a Tony Iommi solo LP. Glen Hughes on vocals (one of the world's best) helps make this a surprising contender for wimp/hard rock LP of the week or whatever.

There's some excellent songs herein none of which sound anything like the SABBATH of old, this is class rock more akin to the HANNOVERS and HUGHES/THRALL's of this world.

Strong melodies predominate and standout songs are "In For The Kill", "Danger Zone" and the epic like "Heart Like A Wheel".

Anyway a definite go out and get situation if not quite a buy or die.

DAVE CONSTABLE

EQUUS
Equus (Auto Auto Records)

92

Now pomp rock always rates higher than AOR in my books and EQUUS are no exception. Swirling keyboards and lung defiable vocal harmonies are EQUUS' speciality. Check out "Metal Man" with its near progressive keyboard passages; pure pomp ecstacy. Waiting in the wings are "I'll Be Waiting" and the moody "When You Gonna Find The Time". Flip over and the mini-LP proves to be just as hot. Pomp is back and here to stay with EQUUS. This is hot; grab it.

KELV HELLRAZER

SUGARCREEK
Sugarcreek (Music For Nations)

93

A top-notch compilation of pomp rockers SUGARCREEK's best tracks. Some excellent stuff for lovers of wimpem - if you like TOTO, STYX, JOURNEY etc buy or remain in the wilderness of famous bands forever.

DAVE CONSTABLE

VICTORY
Victory (Epic)

60

Remember FARGO? Well this is them under a new name, only bass player/ founder member Peter Knorn and lead guitarist Tommy Newton are all that remain of the band that I saw perform a great gig at the Marquee back in September '82. The 'New' FARGO now contains Charlie Huhn (apt surname eh?!) on vocals, John Lockton on guitar and Bernie Van Der Graaf on drums (who if I'm not mistaken has since joined SINNER?)

Probably the most interesting thing about VICTORY is how similar Charlie's voice has become to VENDETTA/M80 man Niki Buzz, especially on "Don't Count On Me" and "On The Run" or howzabout the real CHEAP TRICK imitation sound achieved on the cover of Lennon and McCartney's "I'm Down"??

Elsewhere the only other two cutz that got me goin' were "The Hunter" and "Chicks On Display" which reeks of FARGO induced tongue-in-cheek humour. Not a bad album but perhaps next time they'll pull a live wire white rabbit outta the hat and not a glove puppet. (Eh?!? - ED).

DAVE REYNOLDS

ATTENTAT ROCK
Strike (Virgin)

72

Commercial French rock and well above average. Also well produced and sung in a human language. Not wimpy though which is good news. Powerful riffs for headbanging on the other side of the Channel.

DAVE CONSTABLE

STAGE DOLLS
Soldiers Gun (Mercury)

60

Believe it or not these guys are from Norway. STAGE DOLLS cross BRYAN ADAMS with TREAT and on occasions crossover into SPRINGSTEEN territory. "Queen Of Hearts" impressed straight away. Whilst "Soldiers Gun" reminded me of BIG COUNTRY with Bryan Adams on vocals.

"Ten Tons" reeks of NUGENT rifforola with Thunders overtones. From here onwards STAGE DOLLS get lost in a million different influences. A pity really, cause they have some refreshing ideas.

KELV HELLRAZER

HUNTER
Sign Of The Hunter (Bacillus Records)

25

Pretty worthless garbage from German no-hopers - the sort of Euro metal with no identity except that of being bad. The unlistenable vocals don't help much and although Axel Thubeauville tries his best at the production controls, you just can't cover up no talent/no material.

DAVE CONSTABLE

FORTUNE
Fortune (MCA /Camel)

59

From the people that brought you NIGHT RANGER, GIUFFRIA and BILLY THE KID. Camel's latest US export are L.A. pomp rock merchants FORTUNE who've produced an album that's full of pretty average stuff compared to past American standards. There are a couple of really good tracks that wallow in the waves of excellent keyboard work and power chords ("Dear Born Station", "Lonely Hunter") but when it comes to the crunch, these boys just can't compete with WHITE SISTER, GIUFFRIA or (R.I.P.)PROPHET.

DAVE REYNOLDS

MAX CARL
Max Carl
(MCA Records)

This is my first encounter with Max and I must admit that at first I totally deleted this effort as a piece of modern junk. But it's a bit of a grower this one and makes quite pleasant listening. Max Carl's vocals could be compared to the likes of STING; and the appearance of ex-BLACKJACK bass man Jimmy Haslip, certainly is a surprise. Occasionally Max Carl contends for guitar hero status and succeeds, but it's side two of the LP which lets the sides down. Yep, I'm afraid side two is totally unmemorable. Still I won't hold this against Max until I hear his second LP. A definate grower.

KELV HELLRAZER

SANTA
No Hay Piedad Para Los Condenados
(Chapadiscos)

I have no idea what the title means, or indeed what any of the lyrics say but I like the music and the gorgeous young lady who just so happen's to be SANTA's lead vocalist. What a fine pair of, er, lungs she has! SANTA (I think it means SAINT and has nothing to do with the old guy who spends the 24th December down chimneys) come from Spain and are label mates of BARON ROJO (remember them?). Azuzena Martin is the lady and SANTA's music is sort of female fronted DEEP PURPLE gone A.O.R. in sound. Best listen than try to imagine that! Choice cuts:- "Todo Mi Honor", "Arma Mortal", "Solo Eres Tu" and the excellent title track. Interesting listening I assure you!

DAVE REYNOLDS

SINNER
A Touch Of Sin
(Noise Records)

Now that ACCEPT and the SCORPIONS have disappeared down the eternal plughole of plod-dom/boredom there is a large gap to be filled. SINNER should with this LP achieve some success. Excellent powerful German rock - crunching guitars courtesy of Herman Frank (whose since joined VICTORY) and S.G. Stower - coupled with some heavy metallic rhythms make it an essential buy.

DAVE CONSTABLE

TOKYO BLADE
Blackhearts And Jaded Spades
(Steamhammer)

A definite grower this album; not full of instantly memorable anthems, in fact I didn't like it at all at first. The third proper TOKYO BLADE album is by far the most American influenced. I should say VAN HALEN influenced because there's no point in hiding lads that's where you wanna be. That's not to slag it off though - one of my fave LP's ever was "Now Hear This" by (VAN) HELLANBACH and that one was a copy of the mighty ones.

Well TOKYO BLADE have more or less succeeded. I rate it as probably their finest effort to date (after a few plays that is) with most of the 11 tracks on offer being A1 stuff.

One reservation is with the vocals of a certain Vicki James Wright which border on screeching at times - he's a bit too cocksure for his own good. (Still he's now done the ultimate bunk to the good old USA from what I hear, so end of problem). Anyway an LP of strong but not too basic material. They're going in the right direction.

DAVE CONSTABLE

A.D.
Art Of The State
(Kerygma/Sparrow)

Kerry Livgren and Dave Hope stick together for a second helping of A.D., the christian based outfit formed from the ashes of KANSAS. "Art Of The State" builds on where the previous record "Timeline" left off, but no longer do they have the support of CBS, instead putting it out via the christian rock distribution system worldwide. Not one for our hard-core readership for sure but our pomp AOR market will definately dig this, especially KANSAS fans. Not everything's brilliant such as "We Are The Men" (Ugh!) but "All Creation Sings" with its haunting choir-like chorus, the TOTO-like "Lead Me To Reason" and the "hear it or else" stuff in "The Fury", "Games Of Chance...", "Heartland" and "Up From The Wasteland", are sure-fire hits with the pomp metallers out there.

DAVE REYNOLDS

BLACK DIAMOND
Faces
(Rooceter)

Totally non-descript German effort which may sell a few to family and friends back home but it'll do sod all anywhere else. Collectors only.

DAVE CONSTABLE

LINES
Take Me Away
(Sideman Records)

The title cut of this LP impressed me but the rest isn't really good enough for LINES second effort. The band play new wave influenced A.O.R. that isn't particularly awe-inspiring. They're pleasant enough, but in this world pleasant isn't good enough.

KELV HELLRAZER

SINGLES & E.P.'S

PROWLER
Back Fire/Flash
(Penta Records)

This has to be the best Japanese speed metal band I've heard yet. Both numbers are superb, with excellent guitar heroics from Daisuke, and if PROWLER can get picked up by one of the top European indie labels then I'm sure they will become very popular with all speed metal fans. Watch out for more on PROWLER in MF soon.

BERNARD DOE

SUGARCREEK
Best Of Both Worlds/ Ain't That Enough
(Beaver Records)

A taster for the fourth LP from North Carolina's godz of AOR SUGARCREEK. The production on both cuts is slightly disappointing but the music is impressive as ever. The next LP should be the one to break the band worldwide. All they need is a hot producer.

KELV HELLRAZER

CROWLEY
The Scream Of Death 8"
(Electric Ladyland)

CROWLEY prove that even Japan has caught the black metal bug. Even so, musically CROWLEY are well worth investigating. "In Despair" is speed metal at full throttle, while the ultra heavy "Midnight Dream" is more restrained but just as lethal. If you see a copy - grab it.

BERNARD DOE

FAIR WARNING
Love To Rock'n'Roll 12"EP
(Cleopatra Records)

An impressive Australian act here, with a record comprising four tracks that was put out late last year. From Melbourne, FAIR WARNING offer a package of tasty hard rock'n'heavy metal.

The title track reminds me a great deal of JUDAS PRIEST (circa "Screaming....") and in actual fact Halford and Co appear to be FAIR WARNING's biggest influence, although thankfully Bob Topping has a much better voice! "Too Late For Love" hints at a more commercial direction, as does "Pass This Way" but "All's Quiet" reminds of the NWOBHM hey-day and all those classic Neat Records singles!

DAVE REYNOLDS

UNCONTROLABLE
Uncontrolable 12" EP
(Strangeway)

Just to prove that we can be as far behind with our reviews as toilet paper Kerrapp! We present UNCONTROLABLE. A four track goodie of a mini-LP which got ignored by the entire universe. None of the tracks bear definite comparison to any other metal band. This means UNCONTROLABLE are original although they sound more English in origin than the US band they are. Buy this if you can get your hands on a copy - you won't regret it.

DAVE CONSTABLE

TILT
One Night Wanda EP
(Pre-release tape)

Three tracks from one of my fave raves of last year. At time of going to press it's not known which label it's coming out on but rest assured it'll be out soon.

TILT have refined their sound since my original 'melodic EXODUS' comparisons, although this is refreshingly original with plenty of energy, even the title track - the most commercial of the three on offer - is full of power, with a monumental riff. "Jumping The Gun" is a truly stunning song with some soaring vocals and is heavy, heavy, heavy!

"Ride The Tiger" starts subtly enough but explodes in a frenzy of riffing which few other UK bands could ever come near to. The dual guitar attack is at its most effective here filling the sound out. My favourite track of the three, this is the one likely to get the play at HM discos throughout the land.

This band are guaranteed success.

DAVE CONSTABLE

BRIGHTON ROCK
Brighton Rock 12" EP
(Flying Fist Records)

A Canuck band that features ex-BUXX keyboard player Martin Victor. Basically the band sounds like HANNOVER but Gerald McGhee's vocals are better. Best cut is "Young,Wild And Free". Collectable stuff.

KELV HELLRAZER

INTENCITIES

DAVE REYNOLDS Finds Out More About CITIES And The Wall Of Sound

"The problem we have in New York is that all the heavy metal A+R people come from Los Angeles which is why all the L.A. bands are getting signed and these guys take a totally different approach, N.Y. bands are a lot heavier. N.Y. companies are used to working with pop bands that sell records and they don't have the money to give out to bands to establish themselves. That's why bands like ourselves have to do it on our own and the only way to get major label attention is to have a successful indie release. IRON MAIDEN did it. TWISTED SISTER did it and hopefully we'll be there too."

Thus spoke Mayne, bass player with probably the crunchiest, classiest New York band around. We were speaking of the problems New York bands have in attracting major label interest, which is a shame 'cos as you know N.Y. has some real killer bands. CITIES have, after a long time in trying, released a six-track mini album on a London based indie label called Metal Masters. The record is titled "Annihilation Absolute" and it's one of my favourite records of the year (see review in MF 15), without a doubt. What I wanted to know is, why the band's best track "Deceiver" was left off the record? "Well the reason why that is because we don't wanna use up all our best stuff at once. For instance a lot of people wanted to see "Cruel Sea" on the record, the song where Ronnie (Angell - vocalist) screams "Attack!" on, but we want to save some of these songs for further records. In the beginning we only wanted to do a four song EP, but Metal Masters asked us to put two more on there to make it a six-track mini album, so that's why "Burn Forever" and "Fight For Your Life" are included. I've gotta tell you that we did that record on a very tight budget and we didn't have as much time as we would've liked, but hopefully we'll be able to put out a much better produced album next time."

Still, despite the record not being quite as good as CITIES would've liked it's still a mighty powerful piece of product. I just can't understand why it's taken so long for somebody to wake up the the talent CITIES have. The record has been a long time coming. "Oh yeah, it sure has", says Mayne, "one of the problems has been with drummers. We've been through something like sixteen drummers since the band began, but we've always lost them for some reason or another, or we've had drummers who've never been into the same vein musically as we have. We take a great deal of pride in our work. Hopefully our new drummer Scott DuBoys and this record will put us on the road to bigger things."

One of your former drummers was A.J.Pero of TWISTED SISTER wasn't it? "Yeah, A.J. is a really great guy, in fact we played some shows with him on drums a couple of months back. When A.J. joined us he told us that he had auditioned for TWISTED

SISTER and that if he was accepted he'd join them. So he got accepted..." And look where he is now. Yeah A.J. Pero is one helluva drummer, in fact the entire T.S. outfit are fine musicians but I've always had the impression that their studio work is nowhere near as good as what they can do live, and they also went through that commercial phase. A recent demo I'd heard from CITIES had me worried because it sounded like CITIES were getting a bit towards radio material as it were! Seriously, the demo included a couple of tracks such as "No Good For Me" and "No Turnin' Back" that were a touch lighter than what I expect from the band.

Mayne explains "Yeah I guess there was a bit of a commercial approach to that demo but that was a tape we wanted for record companies to listen to and you have to play to a kind of radio format. We don't really write that way but then again we gave those songs just as much effort as anything else we've done. There's a lot more playing involved in our songs but we don't just wanna thrash through a song. We like to write songs that get an audience singing them well after they've seen us at a show. We think it's important to write classic heavy metal tunes."

Yeah and CITIES have them by the bucket load. If you're only familiar with the "Annihilation Absolute" album then wait til you hear "Cruel Sea", "Death Of A King", "Shades Of Black" or "Deceiver" which is introduced by some awesome guitar playing by Steve Mironovich who has every right to join Ace Frehley, Carlo Fragnito and Vito Bratta on New York's guitarists hall of fame.

The CITIES show is also something worth waiting for when the band hit your area. "We're hoping 1986 will be a good year for us 'cos 1985 was pretty rough because we were constantly rehearsing and writing. We did get to do a lot of support shows to most of the major bands who played at L'Amours such as Y&T, TALAS, ANVIL, QUEENSRYCHE and also some shows with TWISTED SISTER. We've never really had the chance to break out of New York. However our record is selling out over here and the distributors can't keep up with the orders so that's good for the band." (Bear in mind, that like the BLACKLACE albums, WHITE LION album and just like the debut T.S. album it's only available on import).

"We have been talking about a European tour. We share the same management as GRIM REAPER so perhaps we might be able to come over with them. The UK is definately the first place to come for us on tour and Los Angeles will be the second trip. Then we want to get down to Texas." But like all good plans nothing is definate at this stage. Still, I expect CITIES to visit all of those places sometime during the year, just hang on in there.

When you do get to feast your eyes on CITIES live then expect a pretty hot show. Mayne: "Our stage set is based around a wall that looks as if we've smashed our way through it. The drums are actually behind the wall as you can see in the photos on the back of our album cover. We also have a backdrop similar to the front cover art with the ruined city and nuclear mushroom cloud on it."

That sounds slightly similar to the KISS "Destroyer" set of ten years ago. "Yeah, I guess so. I used to go to see KISS a lot when they first started out, that's when they were good. I saw them play at Madison Square Gardens a couple of weeks ago with BLACK'N'BLUE as support. KISS just aren't the same band anymore without the elaborate effects. It's really a shame."

One band Mayne does seem to be impressed by are the all-girl band POISON DOLLIES. "Yeah, the girl who plays bass is a phenomenal player" and you thought Kelv was dreaming again eh? (See LP review in MF15). Yeah, there's so much untapped talent emanating from N.Y. these days that just keeps on appearing. METAL FORCES will try to keep in tune with what's happening as much as we will everywhere else in the U.S. and the rest of the world for that matter.

As for CITIES (let's have the roll call again! Ron Angell-vocals, Steve Mironovich-guitar, Mayne-bass, Scott DuBoys-drums), well the debut LP might be called "Annihilation Absolute" but it's just the beginning for this band and definately not the end!

METAL VISIONS
VIDEO REVIEWS

VENOM/EXODUS/SLAYER
The Ultimate Revenge
(Combat-US/Neat-UK)

Except for the two VENOM songs which are culled from previous videos (apparently not available in the US), what you are actually dishing out the bread for here, is a video containing four songs each by SLAYER and EXODUS in their supporting roles at New York's legendary(!) Studio 54 disco. You also get snippets of interviews thrown in (mostly VENOM behaving like school children - so what's new) and some detailed close-ups of thrashers outside and inside the gig; although sadly there is no detailed close-ups of the crowd during the gig to show the wimps of this world how it should be done.

The makers of the video have obviously tried to inject some humour into the proceedings. Check out the thrashing tramp outside the gig to see what I mean (I didn't know you were there Constable - Ed). But really the value for money herein is the eight songs by SLAYER and EXODUS. EXODUS thrash through "Piranha", "Exodus", "Metal Commands" and "Strike Of The Beast" whilst SLAYER kill with "Hell Awaits", "Die By The Sword", "Antichrist" concluding/highlighting with "Chemical Warfare" which is unbelievable - too fast for words.

Overall the video's main positive aspect lies in the fact that it's filmed in a club environment and has an intimate feel to it; not in the home-movie sense but professional, whilst retaining the atmosphere. A pretty essential buy for any true thrasher.

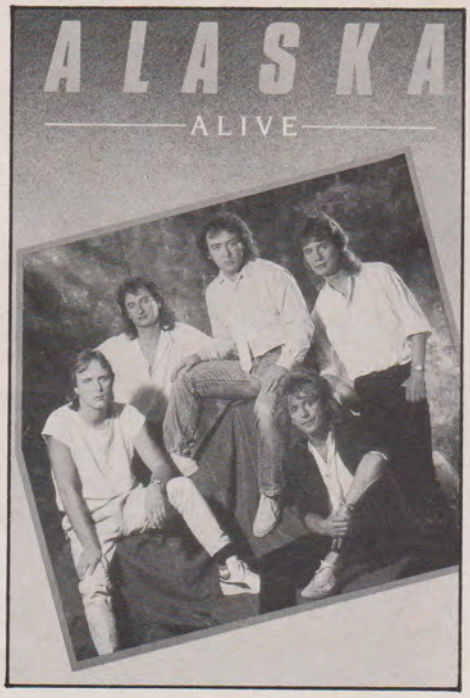
DAVE CONSTABLE

ALASKA
Alive
(Virgin Video)

This video is saved by the following facts:- a) They can play; b) They've got a truly great vocalist in Bob Hawthorn; and c) They've got some good lighting to go with some good songs.

Apart from that it looks cheap - although worth watching maybe once or twice if you're into dinosaur wimp rock - and I think they deserve better. Good band - Yukky video.

DAVE CONSTABLE



ROBIN GEORGE
Dangerous Music
(Virgin Video)

Although I know of one young lady in particular who would die over this guy, I am totally unmoved by anything herein on offer. Filmed somewhere, who cares where, this forty odd minute embarrassment of failed UK wimp rock is nothing short of pathetic. The filming looks like something out of Ealing Studios circa 1950 (except it's in colour) with cameras desperately trying to find a smile on Mr. George's face - but failing miserably. This guy has absolutely zero personality and next to zero talent. An overrated singer/songwriter and average guitarist.

Incidentally except for on LEE AARON's video I've never heard so much crowd overdubbing.

DAVE CONSTABLE

EXODUS

Pic C.Roomian

CRONOS Pic Wayne Youngman

VENOM
Alive in '85
(Embassy Video)

I know it's a bit cynical to suggest but I personally think that VENOM are nearing the exit door. That is to say they now have far too much exploitive product on the market and even their most hardcore fans are getting fed up with it.

That said however, this video is very entertaining for both fans and cynics alike. Love them or loathe them you've got to admire their bottle. Mo people take Venom as a joke than as a serious band but this video helps to answer their critics.

Last years video offering "7th Date Of Hell" was poor. It appeared massively overdubbed and was generally embarressing. But "Alive In '85" is VENOM proving that they can play. It's well filmed with the emphasis on the band rather than the show and highlights include rousing renditions of "Black Metal", "Countess Bathory" and "Bloodlust", although the whole thing is worth watching again and again, and a thoroughly recommended purchase.

DAVE CONSTABLE

PENBANGERS

METAL FORCES•17 Livingstone Link• Chells • Stevenage • Herts SG2 0EP

17-YEAR-OLD, male, classically influenced musician from New York City seeking correspondents (female pref. but not necessary) into any decent talented metal to write and trade with, send list and picture. I'm into Rising Force, Silver Mountain, Talas, Blacklace, Helstar, Hellion, Vandenberg, Whitesnake and the like also heavily into classical music. Not particularly into black/thrash/death/speed (except for Metallica, Fate, Old Slayer, Megadeth) or Glam/trash/poser metal. Looking for people in California, Europe, Japan and anywhere interesting. Write: Ritchy, 81-15 Surrey Place, Jamaica, NY, 11432, USA.

I'M into Venom, Metallica, Ratt, T.Sister, and many more. I'm 18 and would like to swop or buy live, demo tapes, shirts etc. I will answer all letters. Headbangers of any age and sex welcome. Andy Williams, 55 Bolam Road, Killingworth, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE12 07H, ENGLAND.

BESTIAL Madman into Satanism seeks other purveyors of the cult to write and exchange views. Only apply if serious. Also into death music, Dark Angel, Sodom, Hellhammer and Celtic Frost. Wants to exchange stuff on the aforementioned bands as well as talking about Satanism, Necromancy and other blasphemous rites. No weak stomached people wanted. Hail to Megatherion. Colin Lynch, 10 Irving Court, Camelon, Falkirk, FK1 4DU, Central Region, SCOTLAND. (Photos pref but not essential).

16-YEAR-OLD Metallibanger heavily into Metallica. I'm interested in corresponding with other Metallica freaks around the world. I'm interested in trading anything that has to do with Metallica particularly on James Hetfield. Bang that head that doesn't bang! Write to: Dana Woolfson, 430 Shore Road, Apt., 1C, Long Beach, NY 11561, USA.

I'M a 15-year-old metal maniac. I thrive on Slayer, Celtic Frost, Abbatoir, Exciter, Exodus, Kiss, Running Wild, Venom, Metallica and many others. Would like to just correspond with torturous bangers (esp. from W. Germany, Switzerland, Los Angeles and Canada). Would also like to trade albums. Better gimme your list. Don't forget to write to me either. Send pic if possible. Larry Frey, 709 15th Ave., Belmar, NJ, 07719, USA.

I'M a stone thunderhead metal mistress from Frisco. Into only the heaviest slaughtering death: Stone Vengeance! Trouble, Slayer, Voi Vod, Metallica, DRI, Destruction, Megadeth, Hallows Eve, Venom and other hardcore metal! Interested in corresponding with thrashers everywhere. Write to: Denine Coffey, 76 Topeka, S.F., CA, 94124, USA.

BELGIAN (20) into Angelwitch, Exodus, Dark Angel, Slayer,Megadeth, Possessed, Cyclone, Death, Have Mercy and NWOBHM. Wants to hear from fellow rattleheads and necropheliacs to exchange tapes(!), flyers, t.shirts, badges, mags etc. Your list gets mine! Anyone interested in CYCLONE can write to me as well, as I'm doing their fan club: Cyclone Neckbrace Warriors! Metal till you die! Wim De Backer, Vogelenzang 32, 9000 Gent, BELGIUM.

19-YEAR-OLD raging thrasher loves deathcore metal like crazy, but I'm a 12 year Kiss worshipper (yes, sorry but true) and ORIGINAL Army member. Any hardcore who still at least likes old Kiss write!! I'm totally into Exodus, Destruction, Sodom, Dark Angel, Old Venom, Bathory, DRI, COC and many many others. Looking to trade tapes, shirts, pix from all over. Especially New York. Also if there are any female thrashers write 'cos they're hardly any in LA. Parasite Production, C/O Bill Howell, 8727 Colbath Ave., Panorama City, CA 91402, USA. P.S. If you hate Motley Crud more than I do write to me and prove it!!

ENGLISH Male, 18, into Exodus, Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax, Bitch and Acid, also AC/DC, Motorhead, Saxon, Kiss and Priest. Wants to hear from anyone male or female aged 16+. Send a pic, reply guaranteed! Paul Harrod, 20 Bedford Rd., Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5JA, ENGLAND.

WANTED: Demos and live tapes of all death metal bands, main faves are Venom, Slayer, Exodus, Running Wild, Destruction. Send lists and evil messages (especially from maidens of the dead) to: Richard Freeman, 15 The Dovecote, Nr. Pershore, Worcs. WR10 3LL, ENGLAND.

I'M an American male into almost all death metal - looking for demo tapes from Nasty Savage, Possessed, Helloween, Metal Church, Slayer and Metallica. Any and all metal heads write: Ken Hett, 4 Whitney Ter., Verona, NJ 07044, USA.

ANGRY, 17-year-old male heavily into armageddon/death/doom/apocalyptic/aftermath metal (Trouble, Metallica, Megadeth, M.Fate, Savatage, Tysondog (non-metal Doors).) Also into fantasy/medieval metal (Iron Maiden, Saxon, Armored Saint, Ozzy etc.) Interested in buying uncensored live video tapes (VHS) of Loudness, Bitch, 220 Volt, Manowar, Metallica, Megadeth, Saxon, Rising Force, Early Halen and WASP, Fate, Adam Bomb. Send lists to: Jason Stark, 95 East Wayne Ave., 310 Sliver Spring, MD 20901, USA.

15-YEAR-OLD thrasher from Northern California wanting to trade death tapes with true bangers around the world. My faves are: Possessed, Exodus, Slayer, Sodom, Destruction, Iron Angel, COC, GBH, DRI. All real bangers wishing to trade write to: Craig Morton, 5401 Halsted Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608, USA.

HELL-O my name is Killjoy, I'm possessed by the metal god Nasty Ronnie and Nasty Savage! I'm also into Bathory, Sodom, Celtic Frost, Iron Angel, Possessed and all death/thrash hardcore! I trade demos and live tapes! Nasty Savage Rule! I'm also the editor of the Metal Commandments! Write or Rott, Frank "Killjoy" Pucci, 411 10th St., Wellsville, Ohio, 43968, USA.

14-YEAR-OLD Speed/thrash metallist into Metallica, Exciter, Anthrax, Jag Panzer, Warlock, Slayer, Megadeth, H-Bomb, Razor, Voi Vod etc.... plus kick-ass guitarists like Yngwie, Hammett, Chastain etc... Would like to correspond and trade records, concert tapes, mags and the sort with anyone, especially female. All letters will be answered. No glam or false metal posers and losers especially Ratt, Crue or Dio fans - don't bother - "Death By Guillotine" - Real metallists please write: Chris Chen, 770 Jersey St., Denver, Co 80220, USA.

21-YEAR-OLD lead guitarist of INVASION Long Island's heaviest metal band is looking for serious correspondence with tape traders and guitarists worldwide. Esp. would like to hear from bangers in the California area as will be heading out that way soon. My faves include Anthrax, Fate, early Metallica, Accept, early Priest, Slayer, Megadeth etc. I have tons of demos and shows to trade: Paul Duthic, 106 Daly Rd., East Northport, NY 11731, USA.

WANTED: Anything by Artillery, Manowar, Overkill, Mercyful Fate, Megadeth, Death Angel and the like. Send lists to Ted Tarris, P.O.Box 4816, La Jolla CA, 92037, USA. I'm attending UCSD so it may be difficult to reply, but I will try to answer all letters. I also have a metal radio show so groups with vinyl please send a copy.

I'M a metal head who wants to trade live/demo tapes. I've got tapes by: Metallica, Slayer, Exodus, Exciter, Megadeth, Manowar, Crossfire and many more. Your list gets mine. Jonas Frank, Skaftgatan 61, 25260, Helsingborg, SWEDEN.

I'M a 20-year-old American metal head who is into Stryper, Trouble, Petra, Jerusalem, Philadephia, Bloodgood and any other good christian metal, as well as Kiss, WASP, Q5, Nasty Savage, Pretty Maids, Whiplash and all death metal etc.. I am interested in acquiring live or demo tapes from the above bands. So if you can help with my musical needs or are into christian metal write me and tell me what you want in return. I especially want Stryper demos, live recordings and memrobilia. Write to: David Muttillo, 61Z Sidney Ave., Port Orchard, Wash., USA. 98366. P.S. Jesus kicks ass - 777.

BRAZILIAN headbanger, 17, male, into Slayer, Exodus, Destruction, Sodom, Dark Angel, Celtic Frost, Megadeth, wants to correspond with bangers with similar interests and trade demos, live tapes and mags... Send photo if poss. Write to: Paulo G. Vieira, Largo Dos Leoes 70, Botafogo, Rio De Janeiro, RJ 22260, BRAZIL. (Write in English, French, German or Italian).

I'M a homicidal, suicidal, schizophrenic thrasher with a calcium deposit in my medulla that causes me to go apeshit whenever I hear anything that sounds like it's doing 150 in a 30mph zone. I have over 600 mutilating speed thrash/punk death tapes for trade. Also VHS(NTSC) videos of Slayer, old Metallica, Megadeth, Motorhead and hard core punk bands. Your list gets mine, so slam and dive over to the nearest mailbox. Please if you're in love with Vince Neil or Queen Diamond save your stamp and go die. RX. Bill Mehrkens, 19 Washington Ave., Glen Head, NY 11545, USA.

HI! Belgian 20-year-old long haired thrasher (a la Dan Beehler) with a busy metal life would like to correspond with interesting M/F worldwide (Hello America!) Mostly into underground thrash, Megadeth, Nuclear Assault, Cyclone, Dark Angel, etc . As well as hardcore punk, GBH, Suicidal Tendencies etc. I still love Angel Witch and the NWOBHM. Write now. No tape traders please. Yves Tchao, 65 Avenue De Floreal, B-1180 Bruxelles, BELGIUM.

20-YEAR-OLD Japanese female deeply into Yngwie. I'm seeking real Yngwie fanatics worldwide (especially Sweden and LA areas). Would like to trade info, articles, photos, live and interview tapes etc. Also if you want artjcles on Japanese metal like Loudness, we can trade them. Mika Munetake, 2-8-3- Shimizu, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN.

BANGIN' Male Kangeroo (21) from Down Under would luv to hear from a slim spunky metal maiden to 22 years who could be interested in increasing the Kangeroo population one day. Fave raves include: Metallica, Crue, WASP, Manowar, Overdrive, Axewitch, Anthrax, Demom, Venom, Celtic Frost plus stacks of others. Photo if possible. Reply to: P.O.Box 49, Sans Souci, NSW, 2219, AUSTRALIA.

I'M a 15-year-old metal maniac who wants to buy tapes or demos of Exodus with Kirk Hammet and live tapes, photos, t.shirts of all death, power, speed metal bands. Send your list to: John Jamili - Iron Kostantopoulou 37-39 Kesdriahi, Athens, GREECE.

I'M a 17-year-old power metal headbanger from MEXICO. I would like to buy demos from people all over the world. I'm into: Megadeth, Blessed Death, Dark Angel, Death Dealer, Hellhammer, Bulldozer, Celtic Frost, Hallows Eve, Halloween, Nasty Savage etc. Females accepted. Jorge Alvarez, L. Ave Juarez 92 Ote, Tecate, Baja, California, 27400, MEXICO.

20-YEAR-OLD maniac into Megadeth, Venom, Slayer, Death, Fate, Celtic Frost, Black Death, and tons more raw bands is looking to swap demos, lives and photots. Also needs contributions for a punk/metal zine. Your list gets mine. I need letters so write to: Vicini Alex, c/o Mondori, V.Le Bezzi 79, 20146, Milano, ITALY.

SATANIC Black Metal maniac from the depths of hell into Venom, Slayer, Exodus, Possessed, Destruction, Voi Vod, Celtic Frost, Nasty Savage, Znowhite, Megadeth and anything that will fry your brain. Anyonw who is a metal maniac who wants to trade, write to: Necrophiliac Empire, 25 Elm St., Plymouth, PA 18651, USA.

GREEK wants to trade demos and live tapes with crazy headbangers all over the world. I'm into Iron Angel, Celtic Frost, Whiplash, Exodus, Slayer, Kreator and everything fast. Send lists to: Andrew Veneris, Satobriandu 26, 35100 Lamia, GREECE.

I'M a guitar fanatic looking for other fretboard freaks to correspond and trade live tapes with: Fave's include: Moore, Rhoads, Campbell, Takasaki, Malmsteen, Vai, Hoffman, Sherman. If you dig hot axe pyrotechnics, write to me: Greg Williams, 802, Page Street, Kewanee, Illinois, 61443, USA.

SPEEDCORE thrasher whose into raging bands like Mayhem, Hirax, Slayer, Sodom, Dark Angel etc. Wants to trade live/demo tapes with thrashers around the world. And I'm willing to buy videos. So write to: 795 McNeil St., Apt., 105, Honolulu, HI 96817, USA.

16-YEAR-OLD death thrasher into Possessed, Megadeth, Destruction, Sodom, Iron Angel, Death and a hell of a lot more. Would like to trade live tapes, demos and all other metal stuff. Andy Ford, 308 Gardfield Park Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, USA.

DEATH Thrasher wanting to correspond or trade tapes with anyone into Slayer, Venom, Exodus, Megadeth, Overkill, Exciter, Running Wild, Celtic Frost and many more. Write to: Ed McCarthy, 26 Atlas Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801, USA.

LONG-HAIRED 20-year-old metal maniac would like to trade or buy autographs, rare albums, singles, pic discs, shirts, posters, buttons, demos, photos etc. Write to: John, 97 Bernard Ave., Edison, NJ 08837, USA.

HARDCORE thrasher into deathcore bands like: Possessed, Death, Mayhem, Antichrist, Sodom, Bathory, Slayer also into hardcore punk like: AOC, COC, DRI, Discharge etc. Would like to trade live/demo tapes with people who keep long-lasting trading. Send list to: Raymond, 2857 Kuikele Pl., Honolulu HI, 96819, USA.

W.A.S.P. fiend would like to correspond with bangers from everywhere. Also into Priest, Loudness, Metallica and Exciter. Write to: Doug Bennett Jr., 50 Robert Wallace Dr., Kingston, Ont., K7M 1X8, CANADA.

FEMALE metal maniac (23) wishes to correspond with male headbangers and or musicians. I'm into most metal and will gladly welcome letters from sexy, wild, outrageous men under 28. If this accurately describes you, simply write to: Louann Betke, R.D. 2, P.O.Box 549, Georgetown, PA 15043, USA.

OVER the top death metal freak wants to trade tapes and merchandise with any serious thrashers. My fave bands are Destructor, Slayer, Exodus, Destruction, Iron Angel, Possessed, Overkill, Bathory, Onslaught, Metal Church... So any serious death merchants write to Kevin Massey, 10503, 46th Ave., Beltsville, MD, 20705, USA.

DEMENTED Grave Zombie! I live in the morgue and love thrashing with my fellow plague infested corpses to the likes of: Possessed, Celtic Frost, Death Strike, Cryptic Slaughter, Voor and all ultra violent speed skank material. I have a decent list of thrash, if you have a good poser sacrificing list write: The Morgue, 11 Bening Lane, Holbrook, NY 11741, USA.

19-YEAR-OLD female death thrasher heavily into Slayer, Destruction Exodus, Megadeth, Voi Vod, Metallica, Sodom, Bathory, Celtic Frost, Venom and other black/death/speed metal that'll blow your brains out! Wants to correspond with M/F worldwide into the same. All real metalheads send your letters to: Sharon Kaneshige, P.O.Box 267, Waialua, Hawaii, 96791, USA.

TOTAL megathrasher into all the heaviest and fastest metal bands such as Slayer, Possessed, Whiplash, Kreator, Exodus, Death, Hallow's Eve, Razor, Celtic Frost and many others. Wants to trade demos, live tapes and correspond with metal thrashers all over the world. Nick Cailas, Markou Botsari 26, 35100, Lamia, GREECE.

BLACK metal maniac from the San Franciso Bay Area would like to trade with people world-wide, but especially in Switzerland, West Germany, Sweden, Holland and England! I want to trade and buy anything metal: tapes (over 200 titles), VHS and Beta videos, photos, patches etc.. I'm into everything from mellow type stuff like Rainbow w/Dio, Black Sabbath, Led Zep and Mercyful Fate to total death like Celtic Frost, Slayer, Motorhead and Venom! All letters will be answered, hurry and send letters and lists to: The Pentagram, c/o Patrick Ellis, 944 Rosette Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, USA.

14-YEAR-OLD thrashing banger wants to correspond with all into high-speed dealers of death like: Slayer, Possessed, Celtic Frost, Exciter, Death, Anti-Christ, Destruction and more. Looking to trade/buy live and demo tapes. Thrash metal bangers should write now! Also looking for hardcore thrashers to trade fanzines, shirts, buttons, etc. Write to Scott Hellig, 2127 Tryon St., Phila, PA, 19146, USA.

MY name is Chris 'Pointdexter' Dale, I'm into Randy Rhodes, Slayer, Metallica, Cheap Trick, The Beatles, Talk Talk, Crue, Sacred Rites etc. Anyone wishing to correspond please write. Mark 'Myron' Dale, I'm into Nasty Savage, Slayer, Ratt, Sacred Rite, X-Chaser, Venom, John Lennon etc. Ask us all about the Hawaiian Metal Scene! Death Metal Kills! Chris/Mark Dale, 509 University Ave., Suite 404, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826, USA.

METAL CAT from Japan. I'm looking for these band's live tapes. Please tell me of someone who records these bands live! I have many Japanese band's live tapes(demos) and foreign bands live in Japan!! (Soundboard!!) I'm into Gravestone, Restless, Killers (FRA), Helloween, SADO, Satan, Metal Church, Rapid Tears, Virgin Steele, NWOBHM '80-'82 and more!! Hiroshi (Metal Cat) Sako, 1-1-205, 1-Chome, Icinotani-Cho, Suma-Ku, Kobe, Hyogo, JAPAN T654.

TWO psychopathic hardcore death thrashers who listen to violent noise and anything that maims posers such as Possessed, Death, NYC Mayhem, Cryptic Slaughter, COC, Destruction and Bathory. Wish to trade tapes, flyers, shirts etc., with other hardcore thrashers around the world. Send lists to: Rich and Dave, 6808 138th St., Flushing, NY 11367, USA.

HARDCORE thrasher (15) into Slayer, Exodus, DRI, Discharge, Raw Power, Razor, Celtic Frost, Voi Vod, Sodom, Possessed or anything else intense. Write to me. I'm looking for demos, rehearsals, live tracks, t.shirts, or other merchandise from the groups I have listed. Looking hard for Slayer or Exodus merchandise. I'm willing to buy or trade! So hurry up and write! Jordan Garcia 6326-1 Neuchatel Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 2J8, CANADA.

BONDED By Metal. I'm a 25-year-old hardcore headbanger into the more faster thrash, class and black metal. I'm into Exodus, Megadeth, Agent Steel, Abbatoir, Razor, Metal Church, Gravedigger etc. Would like to trade demos and live tapes, merchandise and photos with females (send pics) and males from around the globe. Gerald 'Rattlehead Gatecrasher' Yoshida, Bst. Ste. 862 E 14th Ave., Vancouver, BC, VST 2N6, CANADA.

20-YEAR-OLD thrasher seriously interested in trading demos and live tapes, flyers etc. With other serious traders. I wish to hear from traders in the US and overseas. I'm into Exodus, Slayer, Destruction, Megadeth, Possessed, Metallica, and Celtic Frost. Please send lists and letters to: Mike Smith, 1531 Red Road Ct, Vienna, VA 22180, USA. I'm fast and reliable.

MALE HM Drummer (19), Dio and Sabbath fanatic, also into Priest, Motorhead, Metallica, Anthrax, Exciter, Gravedigger, Accept, Scorpions etc. Wants to correspond with females 17+ with same interests (true metal, but not black metal). In UK, Eire, Canada, Australia, USA, and Europe. (Write in English). All answered. Photo appreciated. Randy, P.O.Box 71, Goshen, Indiana, 46526, USA.

17-YEAR-OLD Canadian Maiden metal freak who can't get enough Maiden merchandise. Wants to hear from and trade with anyone from anywhere will also buy anything I don't have. Especially looking for tour shirts with 'Eddie' doing strange things. I'm also into Metallica, Metal Church, Raven, Motorhead and local Canadians - Exciter, Razor, Anvil, Sye and Blind Vengeance. I want to buy demos and live stuff by nearly all metal groups. Send your lists and all letters will be answered. Write to: Maiden Metal, c/o Bill Imperial, Box 1543, Port Perry, Ontario, LOB 1NO, CANADA.

SWALLOW THIS ONE

KELV HELLRAZER Gets High With Poison Vocalist BRET MICHAELS And Drummer RIKKI ROCKETT

A couple of years back L.A. fever hit the world. Bands were coming out by the second and we were introduced to the likes of SMILE, DOKKEN, SNOW, PANDEMONIUM, DANTE FOX and of course the CRUE and RATT. Now years on it's only CRUE and RATT who have made it to the big time; with DOKKEN in the wings. The music scene in Europe, especially the U.K. has hit an all time low; I mean the only worthwhile gig of '85 had to be WRATHCHILD's and they only did the one gig. Now again we must turn to L.A. and almost hitting the big time already you have STRYPER whose faces seem to be everywhere at the moment. Apart from them you have: SHARK ISLAND, ACTRESS, DOLL, ST.VALENTINE, MARY POPPINZ, FELINE, RUBY SLIPPERS, JOSHUA, LONDON, ROCKNE, HAWK, LISA BAKER BAND, JADED LADY, DAY ONE and a whole lot more.

Paving the way for all of these bands is POISON who are currently the biggest pulling band in the L.A. club scene. L.A. is POISON at the moment; nobody has a bad word to say about this group. Ask even members of any of the above bands; you will get nothing short of a positive response. I actually first encountered the band about one and a half years ago from an ad in that HM bible B.A.M. At the time POISON were armed with: Bret Michaels(vocals), Matt Smith(guitars), Bobby Dall(bass) and Rikki Rockett(drums). This was just after they had parted ways with the legendary Kim Fowley. I have only heard two 3-track demo's by the band and they are hot property for sure. POISON are nothing short of being the new SWEET or maybe even the new AEROSMITH, I can only see CRUE and RATT as stopping POISON. But CRUE, let's face it, haven't really got a vocalist and as for RATT, well they make good video's but apart from Juan and Stephen the guys are gross.

I have watched POISON's gradual rise and I've seen only guitarist Smith leave the band due to personal problems, that's only one line-up change in a year. (Line-up changes are more common than grafitti in L.A.). Luckily the band hauled in C.C. Deville who has fitted in with the band's life style and music aptly. Now at last POISON is about to unleash itself on the world. By the time you're reading this article POISON's debut "Look What The Cat Dragged In" should be with us. Fingers up must go the major record companies and also certain other U.K. rock publications who have chosen in their infinate stupidity to ignore the band; they will jump on the band wagon later and don't say Kelv didn't

tell you so. Now on with the show.

I firstly got Rikki"Wall Ball"Rockett to fill me in on how POISON came together. "We formed about 2½ years ago; Bret and I were in another band and we left that because it wasn't what we were looking for. We didn't feel it had the right members. So we started putting ads in papers, because we wanted to come up with the most theatrical band we could find. We found Bobby first and then Matt and of course you know the story that Matt left the band and we got C.C.Deville to replace him. It was formed out of a dream Bret and I had; we tried to put all the bands together that we loved. There were things we liked in different bands like VAN HALEN's "I don't give a shit attitude", KISS' theatrics, NEW YORK DOLL'S look but the sound of the SCORPIONS. We tried to put it all into one band.

"After Bret and I split from SPECTRES, we toured our home county Pennsylvania and we did Baltimore and basically the whole East Coast circuit. We then moved to L.A. after we had talked to Kim Fowley. Kim was given a tape by one of our friends who went to L.A. He liked the tape and heard we had been banned from a couple of clubs; so he thought this sounds like a band I wanna be involved with. Kim then rang us and convinced us L.A. was the place to be.

"Now Kim had his own independant label and he wanted to put us on it right away. We had only just arrived in L.A. and we hadn't even shopped the majors, so we didn't want to sign to an indie before we had even tried to get a major deal. It was kind of like settling for second best. We had a gut feeling that Kim's label would fail which it did. Kim wouldn't work with us unless we appeared on his label. So we parted ways. We still remain friends and still keep in touch with him, he's helped this band a lot".

I then asked vocalist Bret Michaels if he recognises the re-emergence of rock'n'roll in L.A.? "Yeah, I definately agree with ya, I think L.A.'s a very happening city for rock'n'roll. People are open-minded to new things coming up. There's gonna be a lotta bands coming out of L.A. right now, we're just leading the pack. We're the top drawing band and we're pushing as hard as we can to stay on top." What makes POISON the top drawing band Bret? "I think it's because we stuff our pants!" he laughs. "I think we're the top drawing band because a lot of bands don't stick to their guns if that makes sense. They come out, they get a half decent draw and they then loose that hunger to stay on top. We change our set; every time we play we do a new stage show; it costs a lot of money but we're doing everything we can to make people come back and recognise the fact that they are seeing something new. Each time we add new songs to the set."

Give me an example of your stage set? "Well the last stage set we used was a complete torn down city and we used girls from one of the plays out here called CATS, who did things on stage for us. It looked just like a busted down city and we came out of trash cans. It was really special.

"The places we play at the moment are mostly auditoriums like the Country Club, it's like two thousand seaters and they are sold out. So it won't be long before we are playing the Santa Monica Civic and the bigger places. We've also been playing San Diego and San Francisco and we have been going down well there. We're going back East to do a tour with KIX. It will be about fifteen dates."

Why do you think KIX ain't big news even with major label backing? "I'll give you my honest opinion. I think KIX has one of the best stage shows and they are one of the most talented bands I've ever seen, the problem is they've stayed in one area too long and they didn't have proper management. You have to take a risk because rock'n'roll is the most risky business around; you have to put your neck on the line to make it big. We're gonna be going into a few club situations and not drawing anyone, but you have to go out and spread your name. Another example of this L.A. wise is SHARK ISLAND. They've been playing L.A. for years as the SHARKS and they're a cool band, but they haven't broken out of L.A."

C.C. DEVILLE

BOBBY DALL

RIKKI ROCKET

BRET MICHAELS Pic Rob Jones

Tell me about the album? "Well as you know it's gonna be titled "Look What The Cat Dragged In". It's been produced by Jim Faraci, Rick Browde and Michael Wagner. These guys are highly respected people. Jim Faraci done RATT, Rick's worked with VICTORY and Michael of course done ACCEPT. As far as the songs go there's the title song, that's kind of the morning after the big party song. You know the morning when you went to bed too late and got up too soon. "No. 1 Bad Boy" is about the boy next door but not the wholesome boy. Then there's "Blame It On You" and "Talk Dirty To Me", which is about a guy and his girlfriend who are just getting together and you know whatever happens happens. Kind of like in the back of your old man's Ford. Also there's "Cry Tough". "Play Dirty" - a song about the local bar scene - "Want Some Need Some", a ballad called "I Won't Forget You", "I Want Action" and our real kick ass song which you will love called "Let Me Go To The Show".

"Now I know you're gonna say that leaves four songs off from our demos you have. Well what we are doing there is not blowing our load if you see what I mean. We still got "Talkin'Loud" and "Rock Like A Rocker" to do yet and we got a whole bunch of songs ready for our second album. But we don't wanna blow them all on our first LP."

How did you get C.C.Deville in the band? "Well as you know Matt left the band which was not our decision. We auditioned a lot of guitarists and C.C. was the loudest and proudest".

Did you have any guys turning up from the more established bands? "Well Eddie Van Halen tried out, but we weren't interested." (He laughs jokingly!) "Yeah we did have quite a lot of known locals but we wanted to take someone unknown into the band and make him POISON, instead of taking someone from a known band and making it a combination of bands."

What makes the band choose the modern glam look as opposed to the stackheels, chains and more "I want to be shocked" look? "Well I guess that stuff's never been in me, the knives, chains etc. I put it down to our influences. As I said we're a theatrical band putting on an intense a show as possible to keep peoples interest.

"Do you know what got me into wanting to be a singer? I'll tell you. I was extremely young and with my parents and I went to see SWEET support FOGHAT. The singer threw his glitter shirt into the crowd and the girls went nuts. I then thought that's what I wanna do; If that guy can do it then so can I. So that's how I ended up a rock'n'roller". Before rounding off the interview I asked Rikki Rockett how he got into drumming? "The thing I'm influenced by mainly is my surroundings. But musically I guess the main guy who turned me to drumming was Dinky Diamond from SPARKS. My all time favourite is Peter Criss. I also like Bun E. Carlos, Terry Bozzio and Barry Brandt. I like drummers with simplicity and flair. I loved Neil Peart and RUSH up to "Signals" but after that they got way above our heads." So there you have it fans. This band could be a great incentive to get into glam rock for lost rock fans everywhere. Do your self a favour and grab the band's debut upon release and get POISONed!

FANZINE CORNER

Anyone who wishes to publicize their HM magazine/fanzine in METAL FORCES should send a sample copy along with details of obtaining the publication (please keep it short!) to: METAL FORCES, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.

IMPORTANT: We cannot publicize magazines without first seeing a sample copy. This avoids printing letters from people with imaginary fanzines who are hoping to cash in on albums, demo tapes, and other such freebies. So be warned!!!

Bands please note that all of the fanzines featured on this page are looking for demos and vinyl to review. So if you want to give more exposure to your band then send material, photo, biography to any of the addresses listed.

MERCILESS DEATH is the first fanzine from Greece - printed in English - that has the power to blow your mind. Issue 1 has interviews (some by phone) with: Agent Steel, Destructor, Onslaught, Hirax, Whiplash, Possessed, Jag Panzer, Thanatos, Wargod, Iron Angel, Kreator, Violent Force, Razor and Metal Church. Also a special long phone interview with Scott Ian (guitarist with Anthrax). At last a long interview with the man that has interviewd many groups but now for the first time being interviewed himself - Mr. Bernard Doe (METAL FORCES Editor). Also articles on Death, Omen, Fates Warnign, Slaughter, Darkness (WG), DamnaKleez, Flames, Samhaine(WG), Havoc, Juggernaut and much more. Over 40 bands addresses!!! Yeah, that's what death on paper means! God damned! I have a very bad memory! MERCILESS DEATH managed to find Slayer's vocalist's home phone number (Tom Araya) and also interviewed him! Also news/vinyl reviews etc. The first 30 copies have a free Whiplash badge - the next 70 have a free Iron Angel autograph. And with every copy one real colour photo of the new line-up of Agent Steel. Send $3 US Dollars or £2 cheques or cash prefered to: MERCILESS DEATH, c/o Andrew Veneris, Satobriandu 26, 35100 Lamia, GREECE or c/o Nick Cailas, Marka Botsar 26, 35100 Lamia, GREECE. And do not forget: keep your country clean... kill the posers!

LOUD the world's largest metal magazine. 8½x14 inches. Exclusive interviews with Metallica, Queensryche, Liege Lord, Sortilege and Keel. Features Loudness, Maiden, Anthrax, Accept mini-poster included (14x17 inches) ALL ON gloss paper. Send £2.00 or $3.00 to: LOUD Magazine, P.O.Box 56425, Phx, Az. 85079, USA.

TOTAL THRASH No. 4 is out now and ready to kill!!! This issue features interviews with Sodom, Possessed, Hatred, Black Task, Cryptic Slaughter, Desecration plus tons more thrashing death metal!!! No. 4 also features loads of articles, LP and demo reviews, hardcore metal news and the comix and artwork that headbangers across the world are talking about!! Send $1.50 in the US or $2.50 in Europe to: Scott Helig, 2127 Tryon St., Philadelphia, PA 19146, USA.

MERCENAIRE, a French fanzine, 20 pages: Heavy Metal, Speed Metal, Hardcore.... Printed in French, No.1 features: Adx, Airbus, Asmodee, Blaspheme, Chien Jaune, Der Kaiser, Eclipse, H-Bomb, Killers, Lynx, Phantasm, Square, Strattson, Trust and Vulcain. Send 15 Francs (Europe) or 20 Francs (Overseas) to: MERCENAIRE, Denis Arrault, 73 Bd Ornano, Paris 75018, FRANCE.

STEEL CITY ROCK MAGAZINE is Pittsburgh's ultimate rock'n' roll magazine. STEEL CITY ROCK is published monthly and brings you the best in heavy metal and rock'n'roll in the United States and Pittsburgh. STEEL CITY ROCK - 1 year/ $6.25 - 6 months/$3.50. December/January issue features The Indie Metal Special! STEEL CITY ROCK MAGAZINE, 406 North Main Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057, USA.

BLACKTHORN. Death/Thrash Power/Speed metal mag written in English. It's printed on luxury paper, picture quality superb, all is very professionally done. Issue 3 is out now! Featuring interviews with Exodus, Dark Angel, Metal Church, Kreator, Onslaught, Slaughter etc plus reviews of Have Mercy, Messiah, Deuce, Necrophagia, Angel Dust, Hell Fire etc... Send $3.00 (overseas) or $2.00 (Europe) to: BLACKTHORN, c/o Henk Leviathan, Sejrs Alle 49, 8240 Risskov, DENMARK.

METAL MANIA No.16 is out now featuring Exodus, Desecration, Annihilation, Mace, Accused, Motorhead, Mentors, Dr. Know and lots more. Send $1.50(US) or $2.00(Europe) to METAL MANIA, 4340 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, USA.

MARSHALL STACK - Issue 3 has arrived! Full size with a colour cover, 32 album/demo reviews and maximum thrashing interviews with: Iron Angel, Onslaught, At War, Black Shepherd, Celtic Frost, Helloween, Cyclone, Hallows Eve and Impaler!! Plus, Evo of Warfare reviews the demos! Send 50p or $1.00 cash or UK cheque to: Joel Griggs, 52 The Charter Rd, Woodford Green, Essex, 1G8 9RD, ENGLAND.

POWER LINE issue no. 1 is now out featuring interviews with Savage Grace, Sortilege, Avenger (England), Hades, Glacier, Fates Warning, and a lot of articles, reviews, pictures on Jag Panzer, Sacred Rite, ESP, Bloodgood and America's hottest new band Liege Lord, plus a 11x17 Glacier centerfold. Please send $2.00(US) and $2.50 (overseas) to: POWER LINE, 24 St. Charles Ave., Stamford, Ct. 06907, USA. POWER LINE is a fanzine that covers all types of metal, so all metal bands feel free to write to us.

AT DAWN THEY READ - Swedish mag, written in English. Issue 1 now out! Featuring interviews with King Diamond, Bathory, Artillery, Very Limited! For info write to: A.D.T.R. c/o Tom Hallback, Dobeliusv.13 - 25367 Helsingborg, SWEDEN. Rare!

DEATHCORE No. 1 out now contains such raging bands as Possessed, Slaughter, DRI, Slayer, Raw Power, Kreator, COC, Cryptic Slaughter, Hirax, Sudden Impact etc. Send $2.00(US) or $2.50(overseas) to: DEATHCORE, c/o Glenn Salter, 1660 Bloor St. East 604, Mississauga, Ontario, L4X IR9, CANADA.

Sweep up the ashes and hold your nose 'cause **SUCK CITY** No. 10 is out! This time around we feature interviews with Metal Church, Bernie Torme, Fates Warning, Ded Engine, Chastain and articles on G.G.Allin & The Scumfucs, Toched and Olivia Newton-John!!! Plus many abominagacious reviews, of course the usual ridiculous shit, plus more, plus more - more what? Check it out and get stapled to the chicken yourself! Send $1.00 in the US and Canada, $2.00 in Europe, Asia, South America and Antartica, to SUCK CITY, P.O.Box 441183, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204, USA.

METAL POWER, Germany's second leading underground mag is still looking for new talented bands coming from all over the world. We are also interested in trading interviews, infos, pix etc.. with other mags. METAL POWER is professionally done and can be ordered for $2.00 (Europe), $2.50 (overseas). Issue 4 is printed on luxury paper with a full-colour front cover (it shows James Hetfield). On 56(!!!)pages the mag features interviews with Nasty Savage, Metallica, Venom, Savage Grace, Avenger (Ger.), Warrant, Slayer, Destruction, Liege Lord and Exxplorer, also stories about Eden, Havoc, Crying Steel, Leather Mistress and tons more. English translation available!!! Issues 1,2 + 3 are sold out, sorry !!! METAL POWER, Karsten Raver, Heidekamp 56, 5840 Schwerte 1, WEST GERMANY.

Made for the Universe!!! Germany's Mega Metal Magazine **METAL PROPHECY** is still willing to support new hopefuls! If you are interested in being featured in our 2nd issue (which will have an edition of 1,500 copies and a full-colour front page), we'll appreciate your demo/vinyl, band bio and photo. Anybody wishing to recieve a copy of issue 1 (NYC Mayhem, Siren, Australian Metal Special, Agent Steel and tons more on 32 pages glossy paper) or issue 2 (Knightmare II, Mace, Fates Warning etc etc) should send 2 US $ (Europe) or 2 US $ + 2 IRC's (Elsewhere) to Thomas Schumacher, Schallenbergweg 29, 6920 Sinsheim 8, WEST GERMANY. Record labels: ask for a trial copy and info! Thanx!

UNIVERSAL BRAIN BASHER Magazine, the No. 1 leading cause of brain damage! Issue No. 3 features King Diamond, Antix, Demonax, At War, Predator, Destructor, Steel Warriors, Snatch, Battle Brat, Mox Nix, Mania, a full size Slayer centerfold, and little stuff on Knightmare II, Shok Paris, Max, Vice, Hellion, Assassin, Scarlet Angel, Slayer, Castle Blak, High Risk, Megadeth, Sixty-Nine, Savage, Anthrax and tons more!! Plus a contest! Only $1.50, 75p or close to that in other currency. Make cheque/money order payable to Mike Hartsfield. Send to U.B.B. 29008 Gladiolus, Canyon Country, CA 913351, USA. All orders include postage.

FOREARM SMASH No. 9 features interviews with Slayer, Torme, Warlock and Seducer amongst others as well as news/live reviews/demo reviews/album reviews/chart etc. It costs 35p + large SAE (UK), £1.50 incl. postage (Europe) or $2.00 incl. postage (US) from Forearm Smash c/o Paul Miller, 42 Bransbury Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hants, PO4 9J2, ENGLAND. Forearm Smash is also on sale at 'Shades' (of course!)

METAL CAOS is proud to open its fanzine and radio corner from its third issue. It's a section of the mag dedicated to the review/publicizing of mags, fanzines and radio shows. Send everything you wish to publish (logos, paintings, pics), along with sample issue of your mag/or sample tape of your radio show, to: Sandor Mallasz, CPA 335, 10024, Moncalieri (TO) ITALY. All letters will be answered and all the material reviewed. If you wish to have your ad translated in English in the mag, please tell us. Soon out MC No. 2 featuring Maiden, Venom, Exodus, Hawaii, Steel Crown, Hallows Eve, Motorhead, Hellion, Atomkraft, Saxon interviews, plus tons of other shit, including our regular features. Anyone interested in contacting us (bands, labels, promoters, fanzines etc..) write to the address above.

Playlists

BERNARD DOE
1. Master Of Puppets - METALLICA (MFN LP)
2. Maximum Destruction - DESTRUCTOR (Auburn LP)
3. LEGACY (US Demo)
4. Nuclear Assaults Next Demo - NUCLEAR ASSAULT (US Demo)
5. DEFCON (US Demo)

DAVE CONSTABLE
1. Master Of Puppets - METALLICA (MFN LP)
2. Fatal Portrait - KING DIAMOND (Roadrunner LP)
3. Burning Ambition - CHARIOT (Shades Records LP)
4. Virginia Wolf - VIRGINIA WOLF (Advance Tape)
5. Behaviour - SAGA (Portrait LP)

STEVE HAMMONDS
1. Double Trouble Live - MOLLY HATCHET (Epic LP)
2. Land Of The Gun - LEGS DIAMOND (Advance Tape)
3. Love - THE CULT (Beggars Banquet)
4. The Spectre Within - FATES WARNING (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
5. Tracks - WRABBIT

KELV HELLRAZER
1. Still Alive/Call Of The Wild - SABU (LP Outakes)
2. Falling In Love Again/Raggedy Man - LEGS DIAMOND (MFN LP)
3. Ticket To Ride - WHITE SISTER (Demo)
4. So Blind - CHARIOT (Track From Burning Ambition LP on Shades Records)
5. Rock The World - DRIVER (Demo)

DAVE REYNOLDS
1. Hot Girls In Love - CHERRY BOMBZ (track from Mini-LP on Yahoo Records and Hot Video(!))
2. The Ultimate Sin - OZZY OSBOURNE (Epic LP)
3. Use It Or Loose It - MOTLEY CRUE (Track From "Theatre Of Pain" LP on Elektra)
4. Throw Me In - BITCH (US Demo)
5. Physical Attraction - RAVYNS (track from "Ravyns" LP on RDM/MCA)

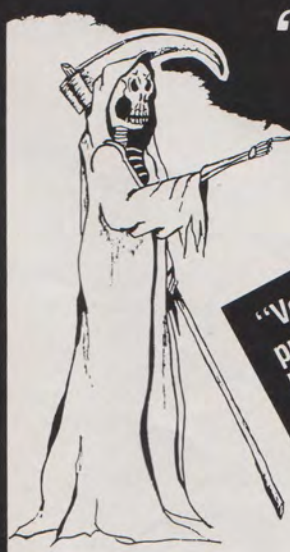
Readers Album Chart

1. Seven Churches - POSSESSED (Combat/Roadrunner)
2. Spreading The Disease - ANTHRAX (Island/Megaforce)
3. Speak English Or Die - S.O.D. (Megaforce)
4. The Return - BATHORY (Black Mark)
5. Hell Awaits - SLAYER (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
6. To Mega Therion - CELTIC FROST (Noise)
7. Skeptics Apocalypse - AGENT STEEL (Roadrunner)
8. Annihilation Absolute - CITIES (Metal Masters)
9. Last Command - W.A.S.P. (Capitol)
10. Evil Invaders - RAZOR (Viper/Roadrunner)
11. Come Out And Play - TWISTED SISTER (Atlantic)
12. Warning Of Danger - OMEN (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
13. Soldiers Under Command - STRYPER (Enigma)
14. The Spectre Within - FATES WARNING (Roadrunner)
15. Show No Mercy - SLAYER (Metal Blade/Roadrunner)
16. You Can't Have It All - CHROME MOLLY (Powerstation)
17. Hellish Crossfire - IRON ANGEL (Steam Hammer)
18. In The Sign Of Evil - SODOM (Steam Hammer)
19. Power From Hell - ONSLAUGHT (C.O.R.Records)
20. Infernal Overkill - DESTRUCTION (Steam Hammer)
21. Official Bootleg Live - VENOM (American Phonograph)
22. Amnesty - ZOETROPE (Combat/Roadrunner)
23. Live After Death - IRON MAIDEN (EMI)
24. Fear Of Tomorrow - ARTILLERY (Neat)
25. Feel The Fire - OVERKILL (Megaforce)
26. Killing Is My Business... - MEGADETH (Combat/MFN)
27. Animosity - C.O.C. (Death Records)
28. Theatre Of Pain - MOTLEY CRUE (Elektra)
29. Chasing The Storm - TROJAN (Roadrunner)
30. Poison Dollies - POISON DOLLIES (Passport)

The METAL FORCES READERS ALBUM CHART is compiled each month from votes received by readers listing, in order of preference, their current Top 5 favourite albums, giving 5 points for the first choice down to 1 point for the fifth. Send your votes for The March Readers Album Chart to: METAL FORCES, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.

TAKE HEED OF FATES WARNING

"The Spectre Within"



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This Magazine Purchased April 4, 1986

"If you are truly a metal fan then you cannot fail to be moved by such authentic rockers as 'Scream The Night', 'Meet My Match' and 'Heartless' to name just three. There are touches of Y & T, LIZZY and AC/DC in there somewhere, but overall the sound is original and definitely English"

(METAL FORCES No. 16)

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